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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Rising together after Soudelor

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

It has been two years since the incredibly powerful Typhoon Soudelor tore through Saipan. Until now, it is considered one of the most powerful typhoons ever to hit the CNMI—a Category 3 howler that hit Saipan at over 100 miles per hour.

"I remember that washing your hands with soap and water was enough to be grateful for during those times," said Jill Arenovski of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

RELATED NEWS
➤ The hard lessons of Soudelor. PAGE 6

That was how daunting everything was: No power, no water, almost no food, and, for many, no home at all. Fortunately, no lives were lost. Yet in less than a year, a semblance of normalcy was restored and the common denominator of people when asked what their take-away from the experience was is the value of unity, of getting together to rise above the challenges.

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INAUGURAL MEETING ERWIN ENCINARES
Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan Sablan, left, shares a few words with Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the newly formed Senate Gaming Committee, during the commission's presentation to the committee on Monday. The committee had its first meeting last Monday.

Chamber: Efforts to prove US hiring efforts moving along

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Efforts by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to prove to Congress the necessity to hire foreign workers in the CNMI have been moving forward and developing into something definite.

The Chamber's Northern Marianas Business Alliance Council is spearheading the effort to convince Congress to extend the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

"We learned from NMBAC last month that it is upon the business community to show and to justify the continuation of the CW program and that the U.S. Senate has the impression that the CNMI has made very little effort to recruit non-CW-1 workers, which is not true," said Chamber president Velma Palacios.

"With that information, businesses must document carefully everything that we do to recruit non-CW workers to show Congress that the CNMI is doing its best to hire U.S. workers," she added.

See CHAMBER on Page 4

BEA CABRERA
"We must provide concrete data to support our recruitment efforts and to show the workforce challenges we have encountered to keep our businesses operational," said Chamber president Velma Palacios at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting held yesterday at PIC.

Help sought to avert EPA funding crisis

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is concerned by U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed budget that includes a 31-percent cut for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which in turn would cut 47 percent of the Department of Environmental Quality's budget altogether.

In a letter addressed to Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Ralph S. Demapan (R-Saipan), Torres expressed concern over Trump's EPA budget cuts and its impact on the CNMI.

According to an article by the *Washington Examiner*, the EPA is being proposed to have $5.6 billion budget in fiscal year 2018. It got $8.2 billion in fiscal year 2017.

"The President's proposed fiscal year 2018 reductions to the EPA/DEQ budget will have direct and pos-

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A lawsuit filed Tuesday lays out an explosive tale of Trump allies.
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Southeast Asia's top diplomats will seek talks "as soon as possible" with China.
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The Iron Bank on "Game of Thrones" could make a lot of money.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Humanities Council to examine impact of developments

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The rapid developments on Saipan may or may not have an impact on the island's rich indigenous background. To that end, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council will dedicate time and resources into investigating what, if any, that impact may be.

During the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, council executive director Scott Russell said the council is looking into the possible impacts that the Imperial Pacific Resort casino and other island developments could possibly have on the island.

According to Russell, the question that has been continuously asked is "what are the social/cultural economic implications for the people?"

The answers are to be explored through various programs, Russell said, and the council aims to get its answers by the next year or so.

The format to examine the issue has not been established yet. Should it be a public forum with knowledgeable speakers? Possibly a conference? In the next six months, a solid program would be established to examine the issue, Russell said.

He assures the public that it is the council's No. 1 priority to gather information on how the ongoing developments on the island will impact its culture and the heritage.

Other projects that the council is working on is the updating of its archives.

According to Russell, the community can easily access their archives through their website.

The archives, however, only offer documents because pictures and videos were too much to upload into the site at the time.

Russell said that they would be getting the archives up to date as well as getting photos and videos on their site.

Russell said that the purpose for this is so that the community may look back in case they are researching or trying to look into their family's history. He said the council website will generate all the possible information that is needed.

More skills training available in CNMI

Students from the Allied Health Program certification ceremony held in July 2017. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

As the shortage of workers continues to plague the island, skills training available to the people continue to thrive.

The Latte Training Academy was formed in late 2013 in response to the impending deadline for the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program and the need for local workforce development. The academy started its formal class in the summer of 2014 offering workforce development training in hotel and hospitality and later on expanded to allied health program, business and computer.

LTA executive director Arielle Buyum said "Our training center offers four different tracks at this time. We started in 2014 with our hotel and hospitality program then in 2015 we added the Allied Health Program and that is the certified nursing assistant, certified phlebotomy tech and medical billing encoding nurse program. Just recently we added our business track that includes bookkeeping, accounting, quick books, office manager, and information technology track."

"What we are trying to do is for the people in the island in order for them to advance and be competitive for that job, we try to give them that edge and give them that certification to make the company want to hire them and to make them succeed," Buyum added.

To date, over 556 students have enrolled and 511 graduated from LTA. Of the 511 successful graduates, 486 of them acquired their certification, which gives the academy a 95-percent passing rate among its graduates.

"We don't offer courses unless they result in certification. So we are offering either nationally or internationally recognized certifications so that it doesn't end up just being a certificate from someone that no one has heard of. We've been very happy to be able to put 486 workers into the community in just three years," said Buyum.

The academy has contracted three instructional providers—Guam Marianas Training Center, Island Training Solutions, and Cannoli Works of Saipan.

"They are the ones that actually give the instructions and they have instructors to conduct the courses. The skills that our students get are from well-established training centers and competent instructors. We want people to secure jobs and keep them here in the CNMI and if they want to move, we want them to have that ability that they can because they are certified," Buyum said

Early this year, the academy joined the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Chamber executive director Jill Arenovski welcomes the academy to its roster of members.

"Our Chamber is comprised of very small businesses, some of the largest companies on island, and everything in between. Together we learn from each other, share ideas, and come to the very best decisions for our community."

Another program that the academy offers is the scholarship they provide to graduates who wants to pursue their education.

Buyum said "We are giving back to the community where each year we offer $11,000 worth of scholarships. This way, any of the students who graduated with us have up to three years to decide if they want to go back to school and enroll and get one of our scholarships."

"Today we haven't collected a single penny from any student. We have always been able to find a funding source. We have gotten grants and we would bid on projects like with the PSS (Public School System) as well as working with the workforce investment agency and they sponsor students. We also have employers sponsor students as when the employer wants the current employee to advance and they send them to us for training," said Buyum.

When asked if the graduates will help fill up the worker shortage problem in the CNMI, she responded, "I don't know if our pool of graduates will solve the problem but I do know that they will contribute to the solution of the problem. I really think that the efforts across all agencies that are doing workforce development, ourselves, NMTI (Northern Marianas Trades Institute), NMC (Northern Marianas College), and PSS all need to contribute because it is such a large problem."

"So we are looking at labor releases where the CW workers are needed and we are looking at those skilled labor force that we need to replace so that's where we have been deciding to focus," she added.

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Court dismisses 11 of 17 charges vs 6 defendants in CW-1 scam case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court dismissed yesterday 11 of 17 charges filed against six persons who allegedly engaged in a CW-1 scam that victimized Bangladeshi nationals.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour dismissed two counts of mail fraud filed against Muksedur Rahman and MD. Rafiqul Islam, and one count of mail fraud against Shainur Akter.

The judge also dismissed nine charges of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

In addition, Coughenour dismissed one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

The U.S. government, which made the motion to dismiss, was allowed to amend the charging document.

Assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto moved for dismissal of the 11 charges, saying this would better streamline its case presentation as well as its opening and closing arguments.

Benedetto said the proposed amendments will make the superseding indictment understandable in light of the dismissals.

Defense lawyers did not oppose the U.S. government's motion to dismiss and to amend the superseding indictment.

The amended superseding indictment charged Rahman with two counts of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting; Islam with one count of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting; Zeaur Rahman Dalu with one count of mail fraud and two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

The trial will be on Aug. 15, 2017.

IT&E celebrates Saipan's resilience

IT&E, in partnership with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, is celebrating the resilience of the people of Saipan two years after Typhoon Soudelor by holding a free concert tonight at the Street Market in Garapan.

IT&E marketing manager Natasha Tomokane said, "Two years ago, Saipan was devastated when Typhoon Soudelor came. It was a hard time for the entire island. But through it all, we survived and IT&E knows how resilient the people are and we want to celebrate that."

This is the first time that IT&E will hold a free concert that will highlight the CNMI's own Sensi Roots and visiting bands from Guam like The John Dank Show. Other local performances include the Alana Ai Dance Group, Pacific Flower, Simiyan Marianas, Kontagious Mindz, Refaluwasch Warriors, and SMADS.

"The concert is free. The lineup of bands performing is so encouraging. We have a lot of good local talents and this is the night they can shine. We hope this will also amplify the Street Market," Tomokane said. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

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COURTESY CALL
Students participating in the WOW05 summer camp from Korea visit Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang last Wednesday in hopes to learn more about the Northern Mariana Islands.
KIMBRERLY BAUTISTA

RISING

From Page 1

"Typhoon Soudelor taught us all the value of and power of working together as a community," said Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa.

He said the private sector, public sector, non-profit organizations, and individuals came together to respond to the pressing needs.

"We all came together in our greatest hour of need to ensure the needs of the community were met during and after of the storm," he said.

Nishikawa, who is also vice chairman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, said they were not blind to their own problems.

"A number of hotels had damaged rooms that needed to be closed for repair. Our employees lost houses and more. At the same time, there was a huge drop in August room cancellations by tourists. Fortunately, that was somewhat made up by off-island relief personnel and local residents looking for rooms. Most of our hotels generate our own power and water, so we were in unique position to aid in recovery," he said.

At that time, HANMI was in the midst of planning a gala event for its 30th anniversary and had allocated $20,000 for the event. Those plans got scrapped at once.

"We diverted all of that funding to purchase emergency food supplies, which were distributed through Karidat [Social Services]. Subsequently, we donated to CARE [Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts] to help provide housing for displaced families.

"In addition to cash donations, our individual members also gave meals, fresh water and ice, bedding, and so much more to help the community get back on its feet," said Nishikawa.

Commonwealth Ports Authority deputy executive director Edward Mendiola said the agency abides by their procedures to ensure the CPA is prepared for typhoons.

"We take each typhoon seriously and prepare ourselves accordingly. Typhoon Soudelor, just like any other typhoons, required us to prepare and expect the worst," Mendiola said.

CPA is now finalizing a Typhoon Contingency Plan that will be distributed among CPA ports before the end of the year. He said it outlines what needs to be done at all of CPA's facilities in the event of a typhoon. It also identifies those departments and staff that are required to do such preparations.

"The CPA managed to open the airport sooner than anticipated, considering the extent of the damage sustained islandwide. The airport facilities only sustained minor roof and water damage, and we addressed those immediately," he said.

The Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport was able to accommodate a huge cargo aircraft, Antonov AH-124-100, that brought in six bucket trucks from Colorado. Those trucks were used to assist in restoring power to the island.

Also, power poles were shipped in and were received at the port of Saipan. The poles were used to replace the downed and damaged ones.

Marianas Visitors Authority Chris Concepcion wasn't part of the MVA yet at that time "but I know the MVA building a few days after the storm needed repairs because it was flooded. I understand that they gathered the staff and…clean up some of the sights…to let the market and world know that we are still in business. We didn't want to alarm anybody."

In the event a typhoon with similar magnitude comes, Concepcion believes MVA is prepared with a procedure.

"First, we would contact our overseas offices and from there immediately get the word out. Second, find out the situation at the airport—are the flights still coming and going?—because that is our only outlet to the world. It is very important that the infrastructure is very solid. Third, I would check with hotels and HANMI for any damage and any injured tourists."

"I have confidence in the implementation of the procedures we have in place because MVA has a good team. With our resources, we would be able to tackle issues, work with our partners at the airport, hotel industry, the CNMI government, private and public sectors to band together and make sure we have power and water. The safety of tourists is our concern and access in and out of the CNMI. If tourists want to leave and go home to their home country, we make sure they are able to do so."

One of the most tangible lessons of Soudelor is that "we as a community can come as one. We never forget that," said Commonwealth Utilities Corp. deputy director Gary Camacho.

"Typhoon Soudelor was a disaster that affected all of us. CUC and other government agencies stood up to the occasion. CUC teamed up with the private sector…and helped us with that."

"There were a lot of challenges while rebuilding but CUC adjusted with what was in front of us and was going to be required to move forward. Everyone's mindset was we were going to be there for the community and we were at the best of our abilities. The effort was going to be 110-percent everyday. Everyone at CUC was working hard to restore the island back on its feet. Everyone had a role and performed excellently," Camacho said.

"CUC is ready in the event of another typhoon. We don't want our friends, family, and community to suffer that way. CUC will always understand its responsibility to the community. We are dedicated and CUC will do everything it can as it did, then to try to minimize the impact of such a calamity in people's lives. CUC will definitely be there."

CHAMBER

From Page 1

The NMBAC was organized by various businesses and organizations to assist the government in its efforts to effect legislation that will extend the CW-1 program and increase the number of available visas.

It has hired Frank Gibson of HR Support to help lead the project of documentation and assist companies with how to do it.

"Mr. Frank Gibson has put together a template of what is needed so it will be easier for the companies to fill out and attach in the documents. He just finished the template and the Chamber has sent it out to our membership. HANMI [Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands] and SHRM [Society of Human Resources Management] will also do the same for their membership," Palacios said.

The template is called the recruitment documentation summary sheet. It documents job fairs that have taken place, with details as to date, time, location, and other questions that answers recruitment efforts.

"This template will make it easier for employers to provide important aspects and correspond efficiently. Any documentation showing all the recruitment efforts that any of the companies have done about hiring U.S.-eligible workers or if they were successful, how long were these employees employed, and all that information shall be written in the form," Palacios said.

"We are hoping to go back as far as we can but we understand that some companies may not have that documentation. We also ask the employers to write a cover letter. The cover letter will detail their concerns, challenges and what their success is with the recruitment efforts and also their concerns in the event the CW-1 program is extended," she added.

HELP

From Page 1

sibly irreversible effects on the environment and public health in the CNMI," Torres said.

Torres cited a report by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) newsletter that indicated a 47-percent reduction in "pass-through EPA State Revolving Funds" for all states and territories, the CNMI included.

This drastic cut prompted Torres to seek help from Palacios and Demapan in putting in place a "contingency plan to include a supplemental budget for the agency."

"The reduction of EPA state grants will significantly impact the…Division of Environmental Quality operations," wrote Torres, further saying that DEQ would be forced to "implement drastic austerity measures that will undoubtedly include reduction in force."

Torres warned that laying off DEQ employees would affect numerous programs that are crucial to an economy whose main revenue generator is the tourism industry.

"These programs include many others: clean air, clean water, waste disposal, and regulation and monitoring of chemicals and toxins," wrote Torres.

DEQ is also the primary agency involved with addressing the contamination of soil and water through its water quality surveillance program—a key feature of the department that the community, especially the resorts, depends on.

"[The cuts will have a] tremendous adverse impact to DEQ in its continuing efforts to protect the public health and the environment," wrote Torres.

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Star Marianas sues CPA for allegedly unreasonable user fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

Star Marianas Air Inc. is suing the Commonwealth Ports Authority for allegedly assessing the company unreasonable user fees.

Star Marianas is suing CPA and five unnamed co-defendants for breach of contract, violation of anti-head tax, and for unreasonable user fees.

Star Marianas, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold CPA liable to pay the company damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Saipan Tribune was still trying to get comments from CPA as of press time.

According to Bellas in the complaint, an airline use agreement signed between Star Marianas Air and CPA in April 2009 specifies a process by which CPA will come up with rates to be charged SMA for its use of CNMI airports and commuter terminals.

Bellas said that CPA has never complied with the agreement's cost accounting and fee adjustment requirements since SMA has been operating as an airline at the airports and commuter terminals.

The lawyer said under federal law, CPA is required to make airports and their associated facilities available to the public and airport users, such as SMA, under reasonable conditions and without unjust discrimination.

Since 2009, Bellas said, SMA has been asking CPA to disclose its audited accounting records, as mandated by federal regulations and the airline use agreement.

He cited a section of the agreement that provides that any capital costs of the improvements and facilities that are paid by the federal government or other government entity grants shall not be included in the calculation of costs to be paid by airlines such as SMA.

Nor shall any depreciation of the commuter terminals be included in the computation of costs to be paid, Bellas said.

He said the accounting costs of operating the commuter terminals and providing any services are essential to arrive at the costs to be apportioned among airport users, like SMA.

Bellas said CPA may allocate the operational costs between the various airlines based on the number of passengers which they enplane in the airport or the computer terminals.

However, he said, CPA must take into account the accrual costs and then allocate those costs in order to establish the per passengers enplaned rate.

Conversely, the lawyer said, CPA cannot simply assess a fee that is based solely on the number of SMA's passengers passing through the commuter terminals but is not based on the operational costs that CPA can recoup.

He said SMA has made numerous payments of user fees to CPA pursuant to the airline use agreement.

Bellas said that in 2015, CPA sought to assess SMA $325,706 for use of the Saipan and Tinian commuter terminals.

In breach of the airline use agreement, CPA has never provided a copy of its proposed annual budget to SMA and has never solicited or taken into consideration any comments from SMA on proposed fees or the annual budget, he said.

Bellas said SMA has made several demands to CPA for production of the audited cost recovery records but CPA has not complied.

Believing that SMA was being assessed fees that exceed those specified in the agreement, SMA made payment of fees with the words "under protest" written conspicuously on the payment instruments.

Bellas said as a result of these breaches of the airline use agreement, SMA has suffered damages in the form of excessive airport and commuter terminal user fees that are greater than the reasonable fees that SMA should have been assessed.

SMA estimates, based on its accounting records, that the amount in fees which have either been paid or which CPA claims remains assessed but unpaid by SMA are hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Bellas said because the fees charged to SMA by CPA were not based on costs of operation of the commuter terminals or services rendered, but solely on the number of SMA passengers passing through the commuter terminals, such methodology is a head tax and a violation of the Anti-Head Tax Act.

Bellas said the rates charged to SMA are unreasonable for the use of the amount of space used by the company.

VOX POPULI

The hard lessons of Soudelor

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two years ago on Aug. 2, the island of Saipan experienced one of the most devastating storms to ever hit the island. Fortunately, there were no fatalities, but the magnitude of the disaster was such that President Obama issued a disaster declaration for the CNMI.

Aug. 2 doesn't just serve as a reminder. It is also a lesson for individuals who lived through it and are still getting back on their feet as a result of the damage brought by Typhoon Soudelor.

In two years since Soudelor hit Saipan, the *Saipan Tribune* went into the community to see how life has been since the destruction of Soudelor and to find out what people got from the experience.

Typhoon Soudelor taught us a valuable lesson and made us realize the importance of hard work and effort while we are getting back on our feet.
—Donnatella Guzman, As Lito Saipan

We learned how to rebuild our homes and how to make our island better and now everyone is aware of the necessities when preparing for a typhoon."
—Kath Tuquero, As Lito Saipan

Typhoon Soudelor was a depressing moment for us but it helped us learn how to live with what we have.
—Sherlyou Indalecio Zandueta, San Vicente

Soudelor taught the community to not take typhoon warnings lightly…it was an incredible eye-opening experience for us all."
—Eliezha Mendoza, San Vicente

I learned how to be patient because of waiting in line for gas. I learned the importance of farming due to lack of resources.
—Norman Quichocho, Kagman

I learned to accommodate and assist people whose homes were destroyed …don't be afraid to offer help.
—James Manglona, Kagman

I learned that volunteering is fun and a great way to give back to the community.
—Stephanie Gruy, Chalan Kanoa

No matter what the situation is, it's always best to be prepared."
—Kena Muna, Dandan

I learned that in a small island, there are big hearts.
—Chelsea Cayabyab, Chalan Kanoa

I learned to charge my phone, preserve water, the importance of mosquito nets, and that cement tiles are cold enough to [feel like there is] aircon.
—Maria Reyes, Koberville

I learned to conserve power. Before Soudelor came, we abused it."
—James David, Koblerville

First, I pray it doesn't happen again because of all the suffering but I learned that we should have been more prepared…and I learned how ready the community was to help one another."
—Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang

I learned that islanders are the ones who step up, not just when their families are in need but when the whole community is in need, and that really came through with Soudelor.
—Maxine Lazlo, CARE

Soudelor was a learning experience. It taught us how destructive Mother Nature can be… Soudelor brought everyone together.
—Rep. Greg Sablan

Teach your supervisors to be leaders

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions will be conducting a two-part Supervisory Leadership Seminar. Part 1 will be held on Aug. 17, 2017, a Thursday, and Part 2 will be held on Sept. 21, 2017, also a Thursday.

The seminar aims to teach supervisors and team leaders the essential skills to lead others in the workplace.

With the recent and sudden changes in the community and the increase of business development on the island, we are experiencing competition in finding sufficient workers for our businesses. Employers are in need of strong and motivated individuals. With the proper skills and training, you can groom every employee into successful leaders.

The seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room at the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, at suite 315.

Registration fee for each course is $50 for Chamber members and $55 for non-members. A $10 discount will be given to participants who will prepay for the two sessions. Light refreshments are included.

For more information, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

'It's never too early for a budget

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTEER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres praised the House of Representatives yesterday for the swift and timely passage of the fiscal year 2018 budget bill last Tuesday.

Torres said he is happy that the budget got out of the House of Representatives by the end of July, giving the Senate two months to review the bill. Although a number of departments did not get the amounts that they wished for, he said the appropriated amounts are definitely enough for the departments to "function the right way."

When asked about the contentious 80-percent salary increase, the governor said he is merely following the law.

"… The law calls for an appropriation of [about $1.8 million in salary increases]," said Torres, adding because of the increases, the CNMI government is currently "in court regarding that issue."

The budget bill appropriated about $1.08 million for the salary increases of legislators.

"Worst-case scenario, if that increase did not go through, we would still have that amount to appropriate. As a governor, I still have to appropriate that funds for their salaries until there is a ruling [against it]," he said.

Public Law 19-83 was passed in the 19th CNMI Legislature. It increased the salaries of elected officials by 80 percent, and the salaries of civil service employees by 5 percent.

The fiscal year 2018 budget reflected that increase when Torres submitted his budget proposal to the Legislature with an appropriation of about $1.8 million for lawmakers' salaries, an increase that was opposed by Reps. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Despite the opposition, Torres said the fiscal year 2018 budget bill is better off early than late and that "it is never too early for the budget" since the Senate has yet to review it.

"Now that [July just ended], that [leaves] us with two months to work with the senators or [both the House and the Senate] if there is a conference committee and I still have [20] days as a governor to review it, so we don't want to rush it at the eleventh hour before we pass it," he said.

Torres backs reciprocity with Guam on driver's licenses

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres supports a Guam bill that would allow CNMI residents to drive in Guam using a CNMI driver's license and vice versa for Guam residents driving in the Commonwealth.

In a letter to Guam Speaker Benjamin J. F. Cruz, Torres expressed his support for Guam Bill 123-34, authored by Guam Sen. William M. Castro (R-Guam). He also supports Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) bill to allow the use of Guam's driver's licenses in the CNMI. That bill was introduced on June 23, 2017, as House Bill 20-91.

Torres referred to both legislations as "commonsense legislations that marks a new era in the relationship of [the CNMI and Guam]."

Citing the CNMI and Guam's common history and culture, Torres pointed at Chamorro values such as *respetu* or respect, and *amista* or camaraderie.

According to Bill 123-34, Guam currently has a reciprocity agreement with 25 U.S. states, including individuals within the armed forces, "therefore the same agreement should be afforded to the people of the CNMI."

Castro used to live here; his mother has roots in the CNMI. Castro is a former director of Institutional Effectiveness at the Northern Marianas College.

HB 20-91 proposed to allow holders of Guam driver's licenses over 16 to freely "operate a motor vehicle upon the highways of the Commonwealth."

Current law states that foreign licenses are only valid for one month in the CNMI. A Guam license is considered a foreign license; therefore a Guam license holder must either stop driving on CNMI highways or apply for a CNMI driver's license.

If both legislations pass their respective governments, the one-month limitation set by the CNMI would be lifted.

Woman sues hotel after allegedly falling downstairs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A grandmother is suing Gold Beach Hotel in Garapan when she fell down the hotel's stairs when she and her family stayed there after Typhoon Soudelor's destruction on Saipan in August 2015.

Antonia N. Aldan claims the incident reinjured her ankle, which had an old injury.

Aldan, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, is suing Bo Sea Corp., owner and operator of Gold Beach Hotel, for negligence.

She wants Bo Sea Corp. held liable for her medical expenses. She is also suing for compensation for her pain, suffering, emotional distress, and loss of enjoyment of life.

Saipan Tribune contacted Gold Beach Hotel yesterday for comments, but the number listed in the phone directory no longer works.

According to Thompson in the complaint, Aldan and her family rented a room on the second floor of Gold Beach on Aug. 15, 2015.

On the evening of Aug. 18, 2015, Aldan and her 1-year-old grandson were going downstairs toward the lobby when she stepped off the stairwell before the bottom of the stairs, causing her to fall and allegedly twist her ankle.

Aldan did not go to the hospital that day because she believed that her ankle, although painful was not seriously injured. The following day, her ankle allegedly became swollen and she began experiencing extreme pain.

A doctor at the Kagman Health Clinic had her obtain an x-ray at the Commonwealth Health Center and it was learned that the fall reinjured an old ankle injury and damaged metal hardware in and around her ankle. She underwent surgery.

Aldan took and continues to take pain medication to lessen the pain she experiences.

Thompson said Bo Sea Corp. breached its duty of reasonable care to make the stairwell safe for its customers by failing to ensure that it was adequately lit; failing to install warning signs alerting customers that the stairwell was poorly lit; and failing to install carpeting or another safety device at the bottom to ease the impact of falls on the stairs.

CHCC to get $735K to prevent youth suicides

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will receive $735,699 in federal funds for programs to prevent youth suicide.

"Congratulations to CHCC for successfully competing for this discretionary grant," Sablan said. "Because of that successful effort the lives of at-risk young people in the Marianas may be saved."

The five-year grant, awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is intended to help turn around the lives of young people affected by alcohol and drug addictions.

CHCC is one of about 800 state and local governments, hospitals, universities and colleges, and nonprofit groups expected to get the suicide prevention grant this year. The award does not require a match from the Commonwealth government.

Congress provided funding for the program in Public Law 115-31, enacted on May 5 of this year. ***(PR)***

Students of Green Meadow School pose with their teachers at the Summer Academic Camp.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GMS to host academic quiz bee, talent show

The Green Meadow School's Summer Academic Camp is on its final days. Its culminating activity will be highlighted with the "Battle of the Brains" for the elementary and preschool division and a talent show on Aug. 5, 2017, from 8am to 12pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The campers will be divided into four groups. Each group will be composed of five members who were chosen by their group members to represent them.

There will be three rounds of questions: easy, average, and difficult. Each easy round question is worth 5 points, average question is 10 points, and the difficult round is 20 points each. The questions are based on the lessons taught for the whole month of academic camp, from July 10 to Aug. 4, 2017.

The group that comes up as the champion will receive a cash prize of $150 and the first runner-up will get $100. The remaining two teams will get consolation prizes.

The variety show will follow immediately after the first part of the program. This will showcase the talents of GMS students, especially those who attended the summer camp.

Special performances will be coming from the 2017 candidates of the Little Mr. & Ms. GMS, Keynotes School of Music students, and GMS Falcons Music & Arts students Jiro and Jia Montenejo.

Enrollment is still open for returning and new students. For inquiries, call 235-2185, 233-6452, and 234-0898. ***(PR)***

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CNMI gets $231K more in Compact Impact payment

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Acting Interior assistant secretary Nikolao Pula has made available $3 million in Compact Impact funding for fiscal year 2017, as an additional federal contribution toward defraying the costs that Guam, Hawaii, the CNMI, and American Samoa bear due to the presence of migrants from the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Guam received $1.5 million, Hawaii $1.3 million, the CNMI $231,000, and American Samoa $2,000.

This funding is in addition to the mandatory $30 million provided to the affected jurisdictions to help with the costs of providing social services to migrants from FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

"The governors of the affected jurisdictions have reported that the federal government is not providing sufficient funds to cover the costs they bear for the impact of migrants from the freely associated states on social services," said Pula. "Both Guam and Hawaii have each reported costs exceeding $100 million a year."

The Compacts of Free Association approved in Public Law 99-239 and Public Law 99-658 allow for citizens of FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Palau to live and work in the United States as legal non-immigrants.

The Compact, as amended (Public Law 108-188), provides $30 million annually in mandatory funds to defray costs associated with FAS migrants to Guam, Hawaii, the CNMI, and American Samoa.

First authorized and appropriated for fiscal year 2012, discretionary Compact Impact grants have also been provided annually as an additional contribution for educational impacts.

The $30 million in mandatory Compact impact funding for fiscal year 2017 was released earlier, with distributions of $14.7 million for Guam, $12.6 million for Hawaii, $2.3 million for the CNMI, and $21,447 for American Samoa. This funding may be used more broadly for health, educational, social, or public safety services or infrastructure related to such services due to the residence of FAS migrants in these jurisdictions.

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) said in a statement yesterday that she has worked with her colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee to protect this funding, despite efforts by the Trump administration to reduce or eliminate it in the budget request for each of the last three fiscal years and for fiscal year 2018.

"Compact Impact is an important issue for our island, and I continue to work in Congress to find ways to lessen the burdens put on our local treasury as a result of these agreements. I commend the Office of Insular Affairs for releasing these discretionary funds to supplement the mandatory $30 million provided to Guam and other affected jurisdictions for services provided to Compact migrants," said Bordallo. "…I will continue to fight in Congress to ensure that Compact impact remains a priority at OIA and to find innovative solutions to help address the insufficient funding levels provided to our local government."

Both discretionary and mandatory Compact impact grant funding are allocated according to a ratio based on an enumeration of migrants from FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Palau residing in those jurisdictions.

According to the 2013 Compact Impact enumeration conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Census, there are 17,170 FAS migrants in Hawaii, 14,700 in Guam, 2,660 in the CNMI, and 25 in American Samoa.

As required by law, the enumeration is to be conducted every five years and should be conducted again in 2018. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power outages today, tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, Aug. 3, 2017, from 3am to 4am, to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely conduct distribution system maintenance on the air break switch on the Feeder 1 distribution circuit at Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico on Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

Water services will be interrupted during the duration of the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected are Sadog Tasi (Baranka Ln., Pila Dr., Rasaki Way, CUC water & wastewater offices, and CUC water lab), Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico Dr., Malinao Dr., Langlat Pl., Marinu Pl., Salasa Pl., Mattinan Pl., Chaochao Pl., Unai Ln., Puetto St., partials of Isla Dr., Bahia Dr., Pantalan Cir., and Puerto Rico Shell gas station), and Lower Navy Hill (Saluda St., Publiko Dr., Paluw Ln., and Pattida Dr.)

Water wells to he affected: PR-164

Wastewater lifts stations to be affected are S-1 and S-8.

Tomorrow, Aug. 4, there will be a power interruption from 5am to 7am, to allow CUC line crew to replace three 100KVA transformers with three 37.5KVA pole mounted transformers. This is part of an ongoing U.S. Department of Agriculture's Higher Education Challenge grant program to improve the efficiency of the power distribution system throughout Saipan.

Again, water services will be interrupted during the duration of the power outage; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected are China Town (Commonwealth Drive, Nimitz Ln., Linao Ln., Legislature Ln., World War II Ln., Uruwow Ln., Congress Ln., Secretary Ln., and Komiti Av.), Japon Dr., Okinawa Ln., Bokungo Ln., Carter Pl., Alemana P1., Spoehr Pl., Raghisch St., Ghiyobw St., Piga Palaya Pl., and Gualo Rai (Gualo Rai Rd. Matua Ln., Rai Dr., Robat Drive, Isley P1., Earhart Drive, United Nations Ln., Mac Arthur Dr., Treaty Ln., Constitution Pl., Historia Pl., Towers Ln., Veteran Dr., and Liberation Ln.)

Water wells to be affected are GR-151, GR-154, GR-4, and GR-5.

The Gualo Rai traffic light will also be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor the CIC Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Family grief support group meeting tomorrow

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting today Thursday, Aug. 3, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, Guam waters

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until Aug. 4, from 10am to 10pm.

The military will also conduct training in waters around Guam within a five-mile nautical radius of the following coordinates 13° 28" 60'N/144° 25"00'E, during the dates and times indicated:

- Aug. 2-3, from 6:30am to 6pm
- Aug. 4-5, from midnight to 11:59pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

US Navy releases new input dates

The U.S. Navy will accept public comments about the Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact statement for the Mariana Island Training and Testing area until Sept. 15, 2017. Comments must be postmarked or received online by Sept. 15, 2017, for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at www.MITT-EIS.com or mail to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 258 Makapala Drive, Suite 100 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134. ***(PR)***

Free Veterans Choice workshops next week

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is hosting next week a series of Veterans Choice workshops that are open to veterans, their families, and members of the public who would like to learn more about veterans' options for healthcare through the Veterans Administration's Choice program.

The workshops are scheduled as follows:

- Rota: Aug. 8, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, NMC instructional site, Room A-1
- Tinian: Aug. 9, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, Tinian Public Library
- Saipan: Aug. 10, 2017, from 5pm to 7pm, Pedro T. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and TriWest (the VA's third-party administrator for the Choice program) will be present to share information and answer questions. ***(PR)***

NMC registration for fall semester ongoing

Registration at the Northern Marianas College for the fall 2017 semester is ongoing until Aug. 18, 2017. Late registration/advising period: Aug. 14 -18, 2017

Placement tests: July 31 to Aug. 3 and Aug. 7 to Aug. 10; to schedule your placement test, call 237-6774 or email date/time preference to isabel.matsunaga@marianas.edu. Proceed to the Office of Admissions & Records (Building N) to obtain a placement test form. Make payment ($25 per test) at the NMC Cashier Window (Building N).

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming fall 2017 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Chamorro glossary on health, disabilities is now available

A first edition of the *Fino' Siha Put Kinalamten Salut Yan Inutet Gi I Fino' CHamoru* (Behavioral Health and Disabilities Glossary in Chamorro) is now available as an important community resource.

The University of Guam's Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research, and Service will release complimentary copies of this glossary on Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, from 4pm to 6pm, at the Guam Museum's Multicultural Room in Hagåtña.

The glossary aims to facilitate communication about mental illness and disabilities in the Chamorro language.

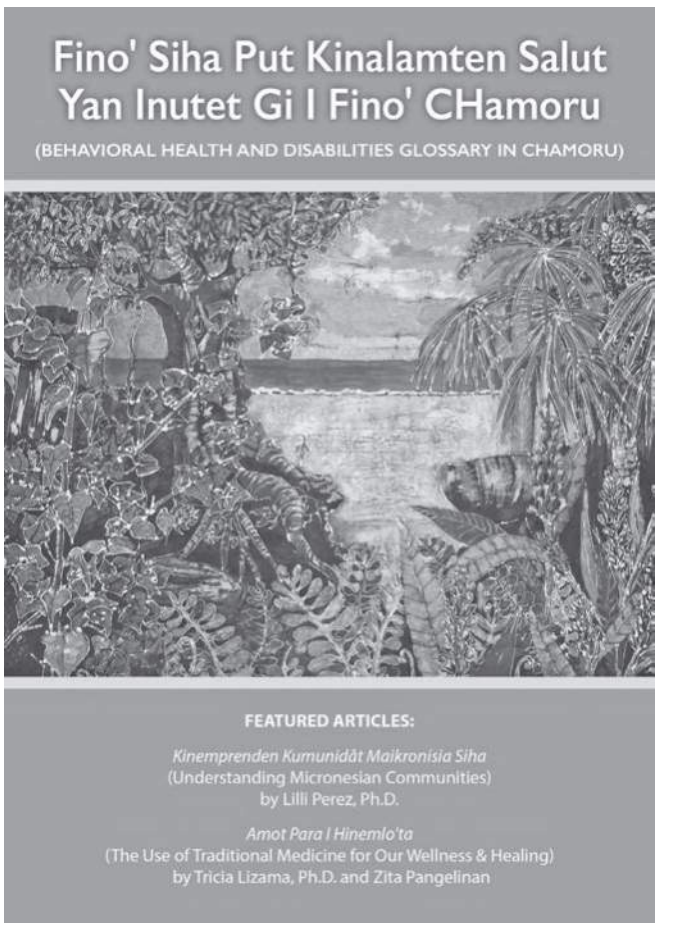
"Although not an exhaustive glossary, it can help Chamorro speakers use other words and phrases to describe the conditions being experienced, endured, and/or observed," said Mariles Benavente, MSW, ACSW, editor of the glossary and former Guam CEDDERS cultural and linguistic competence consultant. "Hopefully, the use of the glossary can evoke more informed decisions about getting, and giving, the right kind of help, or to better arm others to respond with more compassion and understanding towards those who face these challenges."

The production of this glossary was made possible through collaboration between Guam CEDDERS, Project Kariñu, and Guam LAUNCH under the Department of Public Health and Social Services, and the PEACE Program under the Prevention and Training Branch of the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center.

Critical to the successful publication of the glossary was the partnership with an exceptional team of Chamorro language specialists: Rufina Mendiola, Ronald Laguaña, Maria Ana Rivera, Rosa Palomo, Teresita Flores, Joseph Franquez, and Dr. Patricia Taimanglo (content specialist). Contributors to the book include Dr. Lilli Perez, Dr. Tricia Lizama, Zita Pangelinan, and well-known artist Dr. Judy Flores.

The public is invited to attend the publication launch and obtain a copy on Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, from 4pm to 6pm, at the Guam Museum's Multicultural Room in Hagåtña.

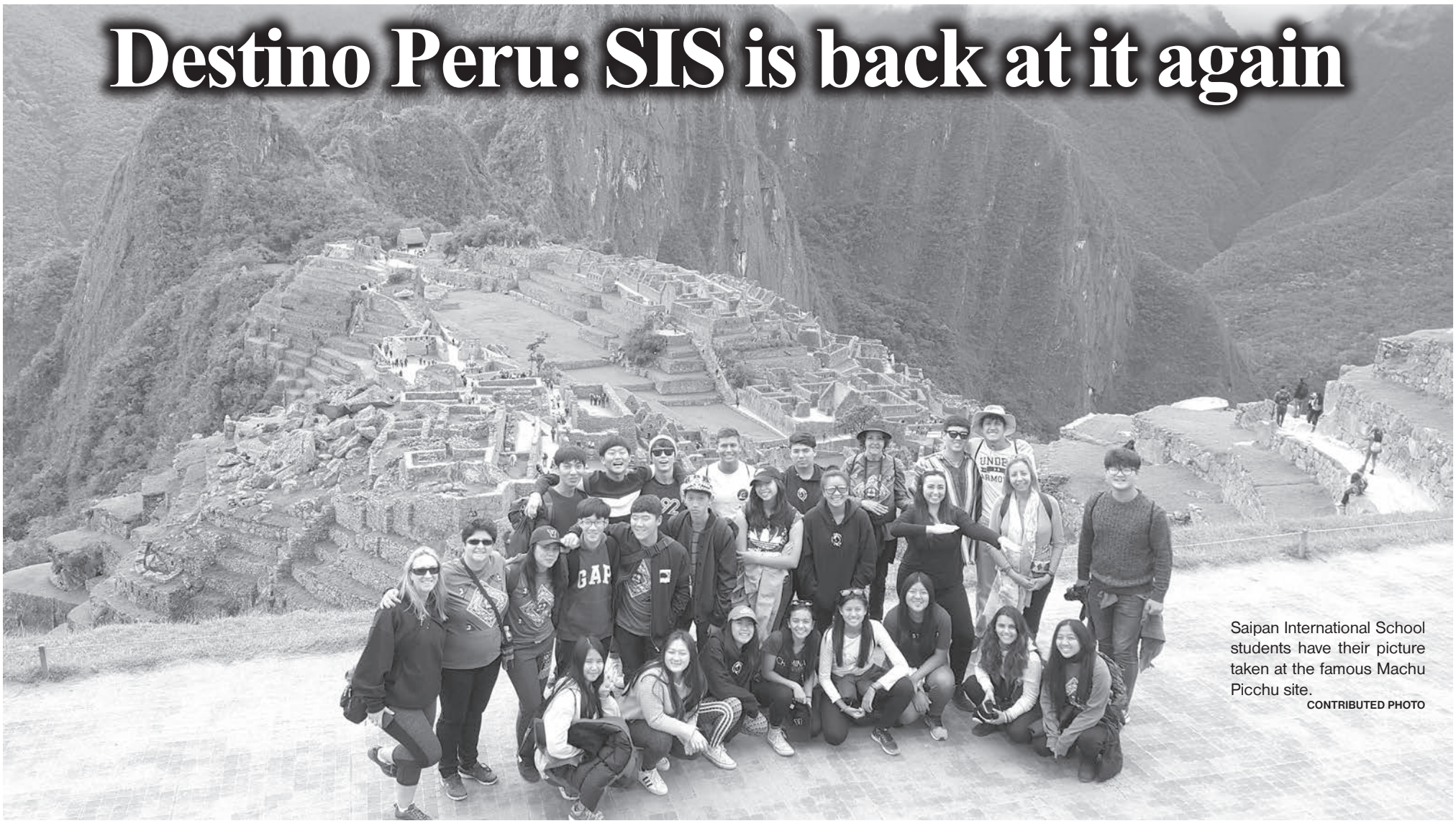
The glossary may also be downloaded via Guam CEDDERS website, www.guamcedders.org. ***(PR)***


Fino' Siha Put Kinalamten Salut Yan Inutet Gi I Fino' CHamoru
(BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DISABILITIES GLOSSARY IN CHAMORU)
FEATURED ARTICLES:
Kinemprenden Kumunidåt Maikronisia Siha
(Understanding Micronesian Communities)
by Lilli Perez, Ph.D.
Amot Para I Hinemlo'ta
(The Use of Traditional Medicine for Our Wellness & Healing)
by Tricia Lizama, Ph.D. and Zita Pangelinan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The public is invited to attend the publication launch and obtain a copy on Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, from 4pm to 6pm, at the Guam Museum's Multicultural Room in Hagåtña.

Destino Peru: SIS is back at it again



Saipan International School students have their picture taken at the famous Machu Picchu site.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JEANE BRACKEN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan International School is at it again, taking a group of students on a trip to Peru.

Led by Mili Saiki, 22 students and two chaperones headed off to South America for the school program called "Destino Peru," a travel and language immersion program since 2005 created and headed by Saiki herself.

The program was a way to help students practice their Spanish comprehension skills and financial skills while also opening their eyes to the different cultures that Peru has to offer.

The program also offers humanitarian and volunteer work in children's hospitals and orphanages where students were able to interact with the children there.

As a native of Peru, Saiki provided the students with safe and valuable knowledge of her home country while also exploring the rich history of the Incan and pre-Incan civilization that once thrived there.

Due to positive feedback from the students and parents, the Destino Peru Program has been ongoing for 12 years.

Last June 14, 22 students left Saipan and headed off to Hawaii, Houston, and finally to the capital city of Peru, Lima. They headed off to the El Ducado hotel, located in the tourist district of Miraflores right next to the famous Larcomar Mall.

Traveling from the cricket-filled valleys of Lunahuana to the red sand dunes of the Inca desert, the students experienced river rafting, ziplining, sandboarding, as well as exotic cuisines of alpaca and *cuy* (guinea pig).

Saipan International School students wearing the traditional dress near Titicaca Lake hold up the CNMI flag.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Destino Peru program gave the student a chance to immerse themselves in Peru, from the ancient city of Machu Picchu (it was voted one of the new seven wonders of the world in 2007), to the cold reaches of the Colca Valley and panoramic views of the Andes mountains; from the city of Arequipa, where the students walked through many Spanish architectural buildings that still stand since the late 1500s, to the blue waters of Lake Titicaca, where the students experienced the ancient culture of the Uru people whose lives depend on the marine life and *totora* reeds that grow on the shores of the lake.

Through their travels, the students made lifelong friends at each school that they stopped at. Outside of the Cusco city, the students visited the Andino Cusco International School where they received a personalized tour of the school by the bilingual students.

In the city of Arequipa, the students were able to spend to a day in the Anglo American Prescott School, where they went to classes, played sports, and enjoyed a nice Peruvian-style lunch.

The Destino Peru Program provided SIS students the opportunity to interact with other students from different cities. Through these connections, students are able to fully gain the knowledge of how life is like outside of their own community on Saipan while also exchanging their own culture to their newfound friends.

Through the Destino Peru Program, SIS students were able to gain knowledge of traveling, financial planning, day planning, as well as using their survival language skills in an environment outside of their comfort zones. SIS students tested their skills outside of a classroom.

Saipan International School students play soccer with some Peruvian students.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI tennis player Tania Tan poses with a player at the Peruvian Tennis Player Club Internacional.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't delay regulations for electronic cigarettes

Public health advocates should be jumping for joy at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's announcement that it would explore ways to reduce nicotine levels in conventional cigarettes to non-addictive levels.

Such a policy could save millions of lives if it caused the estimated 36.5 million Americans who smoke regularly to lose interest in lighting up. Smoking may be on the wane, but it is still the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

What should have been tremendous news, however, was greeted with tempered optimism because of the troubling—and more certain—second part of Friday's announcement. As part of the agency's new anti-nicotine approach, key parts of the regulations it adopted last year on electronic cigarettes, cigars and other unregulated tobacco products will be put on hold for several years, even as the popularity of these products grows among young people.

Scott Gottlieb, the physician who leads the Food and Drug Administration, said the delay would give the agency time to determine whether the regulations fit into the bigger picture he has for tobacco regulation policy, specifically focusing on nicotine and urging smokers to shift their habits to less-dangerous vaping and non-combustible tobacco products. Meanwhile, he said the agency would come up with product standards to address exploding e-cigarette batteries and children's exposure to liquid nicotine, issues that have captured headlines but aren't the biggest dangers associated with electronic cigarettes.

Gottlieb is right that the combustion of traditional cigarettes is what makes them so dangerous. But all tobacco products come with some health risk, and it undermines the message to delay rules designed to ensure that those non-combustible products are safe to use. Among other things, the rules require manufacturers to disclose the contents of their liquid nicotine, allow government review of how the devices are made and put warnings on the packages. "This long delay will allow egregious, kid-friendly e-cigarettes and cigars, in flavors like gummy bear, cherry crush and banana smash, to stay on the market with little public health oversight," Matthew L. Myers, president of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said in a statement. It's also yet another questionable procedural shortcut by the Trump administration to stymie rules adopted by its predecessor.

Did Gottlieb—recently a board member of a North Carolina e-cigarette retailing company—make the nicotine reduction announcement just to distract public attention from a rules change that helps electronic cigarette companies? We want to believe Gottlieb is sincere about regulation limiting nicotine. It would be one of the most important accomplishments of the Trump administration, though it would take years to implement. The damage caused by delaying the regulations on other tobacco products, however, will be immediate.

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I KNOW I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN THAT AREA, BUT I STILL WANT THE POSITION.
THIS ISN'T THE WHITE HOUSE.
THE BOSS
MIKE SMITH
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/NAS 2017
LAS VEGAS SUN

How to sabotage the ACA

By NICHOLAS BAGLEY
Los Angeles Times

Nicholas Bagley is a professor of law at the University of Michigan. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

With the collapse (for now) of the Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the Trump administration faces a stark choice. Should it do whatever it can to make Obamacare work? Or should it sabotage the law in an effort to force Democrats to the bargaining table?

Make no mistake about it: The choice is in President Donald Trump's hands. Contrary to Republican talking points, the Affordable Care Act is working. Millions have gained coverage, and the rate of the uninsured is at a historic low.

It's not perfect. About one-third of states, mainly in the South and the Great Plains, have refused federal money that would allow them to expand Medicaid and cover some of their most vulnerable citizens. The new health care exchanges also have struggled in some states. Insurers have been reluctant to participate in sparsely populated, high-cost areas, eroding the market competition that leads to low premiums. And there's a lot of frustration with excessively high deductibles for exchange plans.

These are fixable problems, though—if Republicans want to fix them. It's not clear that they do.

This past weekend, Trump threatened again to withhold billions of dollars in cost-sharing reductions from health insurers. That money is supposed to compensate insurers for taking on low-income customers.

But these payments are mired in controversy. House Republicans filed a lawsuit during the Obama presidency arguing that Congress never appropriated the necessary money. A federal judge agreed and ruled that the payments had to stop.

For now, the judge's decision has been put on hold to allow for an appeal. If he wanted to, however, Trump could drop the appeal with little more than a stroke of a pen, in which case the ruling would go into effect and the payments would have to end immediately.

That move would throw the exchanges into chaos. Insurers that counted on federal money could go bankrupt, leaving their enrollees without coverage. Many of those that weathered the immediate storm would eventually leave the exchanges anyway: How could they afford to do business with a faithless federal partner? Those that remained would have to hike their premiums to make up for the lost federal money.

Trump could throw other wrenches into the works, as well. He could announce, for example, that he won't enforce the individual mandate, which would encourage healthy people to wait until they get sick to buy health insurance—and drive up premiums by as much as 20 percent. And he could make it easier for states to apply for waivers that exempt them from certain Obamacare rules.

Some parts of the health reform law are more protected. Although Medicaid depends on federal financing, the states are in charge of administering their own Medicaid programs. That partly insulates them from federal tampering. Although the Trump administration could allow states to place more onerous conditions on Medicaid eligibility, like work requirements for non-disabled adults, Medicaid as a whole is relatively safe.

The private insurance market is much more vulnerable. And the biggest problem may not be what the Trump administration does. It may be what it doesn't do. The exchanges depend on complicated information technology, and maintaining them requires competent day-to-day management. What if Trump does not bother?

The problem is most acute for the 38 states that rely on HealthCare.gov, the federally administered exchange. But it's also a concern for the states that run their own exchanges. To calculate a customer's subsidized premiums, for example, the state exchanges need to know that customer's income—which requires rapid communication with databases at the Internal Revenue Service. If that communication channel goes down and no one repairs it, the state exchanges can't work.

For Obamacare to falter, in other words, Trump doesn't need to burn down the exchanges. He just needs to let their gears turn to rust.

This sort of malign neglect would violate the president's constitutional duty to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." But don't expect the courts to save the day. Courts are pretty good at stopping presidents from doing unlawful things, but they can't thwart a campaign of mismanagement.

For that, the public has to step up. Trump is betting that the public will blame Democrats if the insurance markets implode. Polling data suggests he's wrong about that, and for good reason. Trump has openly threatened to cause the collapse of the insurance markets. Who do you think voters will blame if they do, in fact, collapse?

The failure of the Republicans' repeal efforts has given Trump an opportunity to display leadership. Transcending partisanship, he could put the Affordable Care Act on a sound footing while working with Congress to fix its genuine problems. Doing so would be good for Trump, good for the country and good for the millions of people who could sleep at night without wondering how they'll pay their medical bills.

Or, like a toddler with a pile of blocks, Trump could bring the whole thing crashing down.

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Kelly to the rescue?

It has recently seemed to be going crazy, this White House crew of ours, although one creator of the problems, President Donald Trump, grew sufficiently wise to appoint Gen. John Kelly as his chief of staff.

This former secretary of Homeland Security quickly got rid of Anthony Scaramucci, a wild-eyed goofus who used his first days as communications director to communicate foul-mouthed claptrap.

The question is whether Kelly, a tough ex-Marine who is able, knowledgeable, smart and an exemplary manager, can also get rid of blustery tweets about such things as firing an attorney general. Can he assure focus on such mighty matters as North Korea, tax reform, spending, debt and a health care system that is currently falling apart? Will he somehow straighten things out and keep the left from obtaining enough power to practice ruination?

The recent past has been an awful past. First, there were Trump's pointless tweet-screeches about getting rid of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, an excellent public servant who was not fired. Scaramucci, financier to the point of riches, was chosen to head up PR operations and began with firing Sean Spicer, a press secretary actually not that bad in often defending the indefensible.

Scaramucci was incompetent enough to indulge in a curse-a-minute tirade about co-workers with a New Yorker reporter who would obviously print every outrageous word of it. The Mooch, as Scaramucci is called, made it clear he would toss out Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, an upright administrator perhaps not fitted to guiding a ship in a hurricane. Trump OK'd the firing but, as Senate Republicans were flubbing Obamacare fixes, turned to Kelly for a rescue that will only work if Trump lets it and that one hopes is not too late.

For all his problems of style, understanding and leadership, Trump has a saving grace. He is not Hillary Clinton. A Bloomberg poll not so long ago showed his approval ratings above hers, and for good reason—she is contemptuous of millions of Americans, she is in the spend-us-to-chaos camp, her integrity is a question mark in boldface and she has been closing in on Bernie Sanders-style socialism.

She's an excellent representative of leftists who more and more worship big, incompetent government that does such things as redefine insurance so that it can only work when 1) people are forced by penalties to buy it, 2) it is subsidized and 3) it demands excruciating deductibles and premiums.

We're talking about Obamacare, typical of leftist solutions that rely ever more on coercion, pseudo-intellectual reinventions of institutions and fiscal insanity that can maybe achieve some goals for a short while but then combusts.

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

The Trump administration has far-from-perfect answers for some problems but remains more cautious than the Democrats, does have good answers on a number of policies and has first-rate national security officials in place. On a number of fronts, the nation has made real progress under Trump.

A problem, however, is Trump himself messing up even a Boy Scouts address and tweeting sentiments you'd expect a confused adolescent to avoid. We then have too many news outlets, Democrats and felonious bureaucratic leakers outdoing him by treating everyday standards as nothing more than an obstruction to their goal of disposing of him.

At issue is whether our president will sufficiently empower Kelly and heed him. That does not mean Kelly should be the only voice, just that he affixes order and dignity to an administration otherwise in deep trouble.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open letter

Buenas yan hafa ada, chairman Francisco M. Borja of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development & Programs:

This is to submit our letter to oppose the intent of the Senate Bill 20-35 that was "floor introduced" by Senate President Arnold Palacios on March 22, 2017, Senate session. A 75-year lease on public land is too long and definitely against the interest of the beneficiaries of all public lands. The amendment bill is entitled: *To amend 1 CMC § 2806(c) to increase the term of public land leases up to 40 years plus an extension up to 35 years for a total 75 years; to authorize existing public land leases to be amended to extend the existing lease term up to 75 years; and for other purposes.*

Foremost, we want to share our concern that a magnitude of such legislation failed to be pre-filed and be available to a wider audience to provide the public ample time to review the context and intention of the legislation prior to formal session introduction.

This type of legislation impacts the core mandate of our policies and disposition of public lands that bore responsibility toward the beneficiaries. We must continue to be cognizant that one of the fundamental values of our agreement with the United States of America under the Covenant that established our relationship is the disposition of public lands.

We should also be cognizant that the intention of the terms of both public and private land leases as enumerated in the former U.S. High Commissioner's communication (former United Nation Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands – Micronesia) reiterated that there shall be no lease beyond "one generation." Additionally, the Covenant that established our government recognized the importance of land as fundamental natural resources of the Chamorro people, the aboriginal and only indigenous people of these islands. This was one of our fundamental guideline.

It is our hope that the beneficiaries are promptly and properly engaged through public hearings and forums in the CNMI and elsewhere to hear and receive comments and recommendations on the intentions of Senate Bill 20-35. It is our fervent hope that the members of the Committee on REDP thoroughly and carefully review and evaluate the impact of this legislation on our people, especially on the future generation of beneficiaries; and our limited resources—land.

We humbly recommend that the Senate Committee on REDP is given an opportunity by the Department of Public Lands to review all public land leases from inception of the Commonwealth government to date.

The Senate Committee on REDP must be able to evaluate the number of public land leases that has morphed into new lease agreements; e.g. Saipan Grand Hotel, now Kanoa Resort; Royal Taga Hotel, now Diamond Hotel; Saipan Inter-Continental Hotel, then Dai-Ichi Hotel, now Fiesta Resort; Continental Hotel, now Hyatt Regency Saipan (Portopia), Imperial Pacific International, Honest Profit International, etc. , including public lands golf courses Suwaso Corporation dba Coral Ocean Point, Kan Pacific dba Mariana Resort and Spa; Kingfisher Golf; Laulau Bay Golf Resort, etc.

The proposed legislation compared the CNMI's 40 years lease terms on public land to other Pacific Island nations such as the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia where land leases that range up to 99 years are available.

However, this kind of lease scheme is not new to the CNMI because there are at least three 100 years lease terms, FDM, Tinian and Tanapag Harbor – with the United States government. The CNMI still has at least 60 years remaining on these leases, which has some detrimental impact and impediment on both social and economic development for our people of the Commonwealth.

As a member of the Tinian and Aguiguan leadership and a resident of the municipality; I am sure that you have first-hand experience on the negative impact and frustration of the long-term leasehold interest of the U.S. Military lease of 2/3 of the island; and in trying to adjust and balance the needs of the residents and community.

We strongly recommend that the committee withdraws from any further deliberation on the legislation; and instead perform a joint House and Senate hearing with the Department of Public Lands for a comprehensive analysis that will provide a clear overview on the status of all public land leases; a survey of available public land; status of homestead and agriculture homestead; including history of lease and fees payments received by DPL; funds withheld by DPL in all financial institutions; and funds remitted to MPLT for investment; including funds transferred to the General Funds for legislative appropriation – this will, hopefully, achieve a balanced guideline for both the beneficiaries and the investors. It is unfortunate that this bill is a legislation that is guided and centered on investment driven policy only.

To this end, the ultimate goal is to ensure that transparency and accountability must be shared with the public, most importantly, the beneficiaries who are the sole owners of all public lands.

In closing, we want to continue to remind all of us of an Indian proverb especially our Chamoru leaders, like yourselves—who have a direct link to these ancestral lands—"*we don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children*." And it is our obligation to ensure that we uphold ourselves to this responsibility as caretakers and safekeepers of our children's heritage.

I remain humble and look forward to hearing from the Committee on REDP on future public engagements to discuss positive options to this proposed legislation.

Liana M.S. Hofschneider
President/founding member
Matua Council for Chamorro Advancement

The CPA and the US Air Force

It is a bit surprising that there have been no news reports on the announcements made by the U.S. Air Force at the Commonwealth Ports Authority public hearing on Tinian last week regarding the status of the divert facility.

The Air Force made it clear that the decision to proceed or not proceed with the $375 million construction project is in the hands of the CPA board of directors, as it has been, essentially, since the concept was first introduced some six years ago.

The mayor of Tinian requested that the Air Force consider helping out Tinian by providing a fuel tanks system for private aircraft, as well as landing system. The Air Force stated that they were aware of these requests, and had studied them, but could not legally incorporate civilian construction in the military construction project.

However, they did state that the Air Force was willing to begin negotiations with CPA for a lease on the 200-some acres of adjacent land they need to complete the project at $20 million.

Therein could lie the funds for the completion of Tinian civilian airport, should the CPA board successfully conclude the negotiations and then decide to use these funds for that purpose.

Readers might ask why CPA is negotiating a land lease instead of public lands. This would make a great research project for NMC students. The original lease was concluded in 1975 by the political status commission. At the request of the people of Tinian it has been amended several times. Once to provide for the expansion of the airport to bring direct flights to Tinian in support of its gaming industry, and once to provide lands for Tinian's cattle ranchers. Who conducted those negotiations?

All this information should be available at the CNMI Archives at the Northern Marianas College. But it is not, despite Public Law 3 CMC Section 1305.

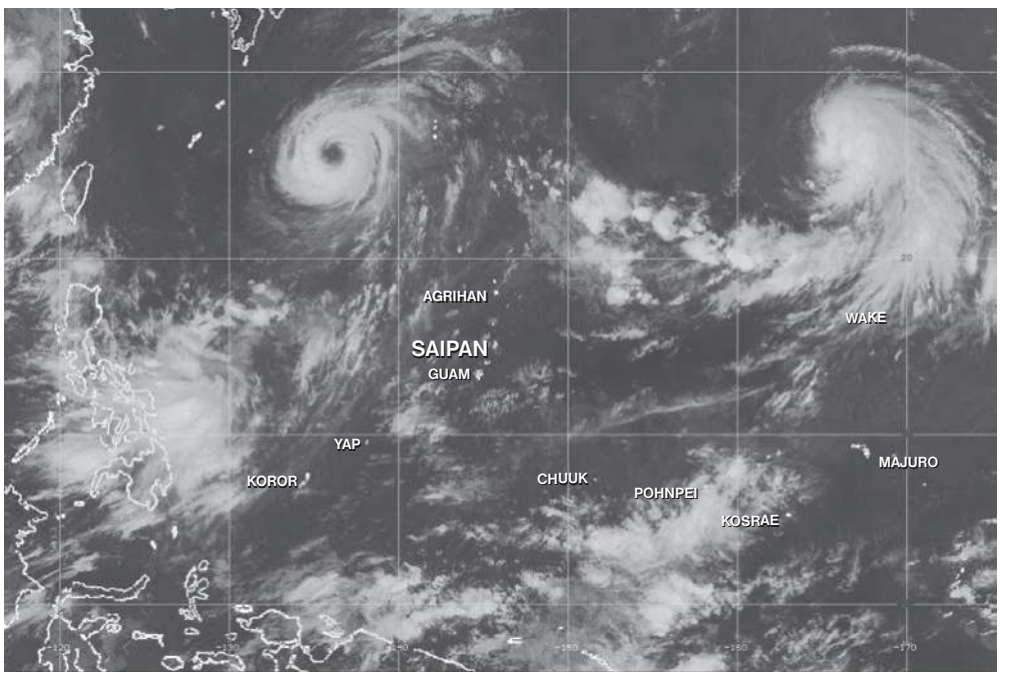
Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:40 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No change to the forecast, as gentle SW winds should persist a few more days, with isolated showers and thunderstorms through Friday. Island thunderstorms are a possibility this afternoon, especially for Guam as the SSW direction of the winds delivers maximum overland trajectory, and maximizes island heating of the air. However, too much mid and high-level cloudiness could hinder that heating.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Sunny	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Sunny	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	93° / 77°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	64° / 63°
Los Angeles	Sunny	92° / 72°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	55° / 45°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89° / 83°
New York	Thunderstorms	84° / 73°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	104° / 79°
Salem	Thunderstorms	81° / 70°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 72°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	89° / 73°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.72
11:03 AM	LOW TIDE	0.11
6:09 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55
11:06 PM	LOW TIDE	1.16

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:03 AM	3:09 PM
Friday	-	2:49 AM	3:58 PM
Saturday	-	3:36 AM	4:47 PM
Sunday	-	4:25 AM	5:34 PM
Monday	-	5:16 AM	6:21 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE584	4:00pm	8:05pm	1, 3, 5
ZE584	4:35pm	8:15pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

ZE583	9:10am	2:40pm	1, 3, 5
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

GOP shows signs of reaching out to Democrats on health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans showed signs Tuesday of reaching out to Democrats for a joint if modest effort to buttress health insurance markets, four days after the GOP effort to unilaterally uproot and reshape the Obama health care law crumpled in the Senate.

The Republican chairman of the Senate health committee, Tennessee's Lamar Alexander, said he'd seek bipartisan legislation extending for one year federal payments to insurers that help millions of low- and moderate-income Americans afford coverage. President Donald Trump has threatened to halt those subsidies in hopes of forcing Democrats to make concessions, which the Senate's top Democrat on Tuesday called "not what an adult does."

The No. 2 Senate Republican also seemed to imply the two parties should seek common health care ground. Texas Sen. John Cornyn said on the Senate floor, "We are forced to work together to try to solve these problems, and I think frankly bipartisan solutions tend to be more durable."

In addition, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell rebuffed Trump's demands that the Senate change its rules so it can pass a health overhaul with a simple majority vote. McConnell, R-Ky., said the Senate lacks the votes to end filibusters of legislation like Trump wants, and noted that getting the 60 votes needed to end filibusters wasn't why Republicans lost.

"It's pretty obvious that our problem with health care was not the Democrats. We didn't have 50 Republicans," McConnell told reporters.

The prospects for passing bipartisan health care legislation remain uncertain, with divisions between conservatives and moderate Republicans persisting on several issues. In particular, Trump, McConnell and some other Republicans have mocked the payments Alexander wants to renew as a bailout for insurers.

Nonetheless, the day's comments collectively underscored the distance Senate Republicans are keeping from White House demands that they continue voting on repealing and replacing President Barack Obama's 2010 health care overhaul. Erasing that law has been a top priority for Trump and most GOP congressional candidates, and failing to do it as they control the White House and Congress has angered many in the party.

Many top Republicans have said it's time for the GOP to move from health care to other issues.

McConnell said "there's still an opportunity" for Republicans to push health care legislation through the Senate. He said he was waiting for the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office to estimate the impact of GOP bills easing some of the party's proposed Medicaid cuts, making it easier for insurers to sell bare-bones policies and giving states block grants for health programs.

Alexander said the legislation he envisions would be "small, bipartisan and balanced." He said it should include money to continue the insurance payments in 2018 and give states more flexibility on the type of coverage insurers must provide, he said.

Trump on tricky legal ground with 'Obamacare' threat

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's threat to stop billions of dollars in government payments to insurers and force the collapse of "Obamacare" could put the government in a legal bind.

Law experts say he'd be handing insurers a solid court case, while undermining his own leverage to compel Democrats to negotiate, especially if premiums jump by 20 percent as expected after such a move.

"Trump thinks he's holding all the cards. But Democrats know what's in his hand, and he's got a pair of twos," said University of Michigan law professor Nicholas Bagley. Democrats "aren't about to agree to dismantle the Affordable Care Act just because Trump makes a reckless bet."

For months, the president has been threatening to stop payments that reimburse insurers for providing required financial assistance to low-income consumers, reducing their copays and deductibles.

Administration officials say the decision could come any day.

Playing defense, some insurers are preemptively raising premiums for next year. For example, BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona this week announced a 7.2 percent average hike for 2018. But there would likely be no increase if the subsidies are guaranteed, the company said. And BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina earlier requested a 22.9 percent average increase. With the subsidies, the company said that would have been 8.8 percent.

The "cost-sharing" subsidies are under a legal cloud because of a dispute over whether the Obama health care law properly approved the payments. Other parts of the health care law, however, clearly direct the government to reimburse insurers.

With the issue unresolved, the Trump administration has been paying insurers each month, as the Obama administration had done previously.

Trump returned to the subject last week after the GOP drive to repeal the health care law fell apart in the Senate, tweeting, "As I said from the beginning, let ObamaCare implode, then deal. Watch!"

He elaborated in another tweet, "If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies...will end very soon!"

It's not accurate to call the cost-sharing subsidies a bailout, said Tim Jost, a professor emeritus at Washington and Lee University School of Law in Virginia.

"They are no more a bailout than payments made by the government to a private company for building a bomber," he said.

That's at the root of the Trump administration's potential legal problem if the president makes good on this threat.

The health law clearly requires insurers to help low-income consumers with their copays and deductibles. Nearly 3 in 5 HealthCare.gov customers qualify for the assistance, which can reduce a deductible of $3,500 to several hundred dollars. The annual cost to the government is about $7 billion.

The law also specifies that the government shall reimburse insurers for the cost-sharing assistance that they provide.

Nonetheless, the payments remain under a cloud because of a disagreement over whether they were properly approved in the health law, by providing an "appropriation."

The Constitution says the government shall not spend money without a congressional appropriation.

Nation

Lawsuit: Fox coordinated with White House on false story

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawsuit filed Tuesday lays out an explosive tale of Trump allies, the White House and Fox News Channel conspiring to push a false story about Democratic leaks and an unsolved killing in order to distract attention from the Russia investigation that has been swirling around the president.

AP

News headlines scroll above the Fox News studios in the News Corporation headquarters building in New York, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017.

The lawsuit was filed against Fox by an investigator who had been looking into the killing of Seth Rich, a former Democratic National Committee staff member killed in 2016 in what police say was a botched robbery. The investigator alleges that Fox quoted him as saying things he never said and was willing to show President Donald Trump its story before it was posted online.

It's the second time in two days that Trump has been accused of being actively involved in pushing a public narrative to lower the heat of the Russia story. The Washington Post reported that the president had written a misleading statement for his son to give to The New York Times about Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting last summer with a Russian who promised dirt on Democrat Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Rich's death has become fodder for conspiracy theorists, deeply angering the 27-year-old's family. In May, the story was thrust into the headlines again when Fox posted a story on its website in which investigator Rod Wheeler said there had been contact between Rich and WikiLeaks, the organization that posted a trove of DNC emails last year. The story was heavily promoted by Fox News host Sean Hannity, who has informally advised the president.

In the lawsuit, Wheeler now says that he never made that statement. He also contends he was told his false comments were put in the story because Trump wanted it that way.

Rich's family released a statement Tuesday night supporting the lawsuit. "While we can't speak to the evidence that you now have, we are hopeful that this brings an end to what has been the most emotionally difficult time in our lives and an end to conspiracy theories surrounding our beloved Seth," the family wrote.

Fox says it's "completely erroneous" to suggest it pushed the story to distract from the Russia investigation. Wheeler has made contradictory statements regarding the case and is simultaneously filing a racial discrimination lawsuit against the network, represented by a lawyer who has other lawsuits against Fox.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump had no knowledge of the false story before it was posted and that it was "completely untrue" that the White House had any role in shaping it.

Wheeler, a Fox contributor on law enforcement issues, said he was brought into the Rich case by donor and Trump supporter Ed Butowsky. He says Butowsky, who has also made occasional guest appearances on Fox News, was intent on establishing a link between Rich and WikiLeaks.

ACROSS THE NATION

Family of bullied girl to sue school district over suicide

ROSELAND, N.J. (AP)—The family of a 12-year-old New Jersey girl who killed herself said Tuesday it will sue her school district for not stepping in to address the problem of cyberbullying. An attorney for the family of Mallory Grossman said he will file a notice of intent to sue the Rockaway Township school district for negligence. The notice is a required precursor to the filing of a lawsuit. Mallory took her own life in June after months of bullying by several of her classmates, in person and through social media, her mother, Dianne Grossman, said Tuesday. Attorney Bruce Nagel said some of the messages were "vile and malicious."

Man dead, 2 deputies shot after Rastafarian pot farm dispute

OREGON HOUSE, Calif. (AP)—A suspect died and two Northern California deputies were shot and wounded Tuesday in a shootout after the officers responded to reports of an agitated man pulling up plants in a Rastafarian church's marijuana farm, authorities said. Yuba County Sheriff Steve Durfor said three deputies responding to reports of an unclear disturbance arrived separately at the small farm in remote Oregon House, which is about 55 miles (88.5 kilometers) north of Sacramento, beginning at about 8:40 a.m. A resident pointed out the suspect to two of the deputies. The suspect then fled up a hill behind the farm and deputies lost sight of him after about 100 yards near another home.

Honolulu high-rise fire caused estimated $100M in damage

HONOLULU (AP)—Officials say a deadly fire in a Honolulu high-rise apartment building caused an estimated $100 million or more in damage. Honolulu Fire Captain David Jenkins said Tuesday the blaze is considered one of the most destructive in Honolulu's recent history. He says more than 80 units were damaged by fire, heat or smoke, and 30 of those units are considered a total loss. Another 130 units sustained water damage. Jenkins says fire officials are still investigating what caused the fire, but they have ruled out cooking. He says there's no indication the fire was intentionally set. Three people died and twelve were injured in the July 14 blaze. The building had outdated fire alarms and no central sprinkler system. Some residents say they could not hear fire alarms from their apartments.

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Asia

ASEAN wants to talk with China on nonaggression pact

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Southeast Asia's top diplomats will seek talks "as soon as possible" on a proposed nonaggression pact with China aimed at preventing clashes in the South China Sea and will likely hold back on criticism of China's aggressive acts in the disputed waters in a weekend summit.

An initial draft of a joint communique to be issued by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers, which was seen by The Associated Press on Wednesday, says they would ask senior diplomats to immediately initiate talks on the so-called code of conduct in the disputed sea after their governments agreed on a framework of the accord with China in May.

The ASEAN ministers will ask their senior diplomats "to begin earnest discussions on a substantive and effective code of conduct on the basis of the framework as soon as possible," according to the draft communique.

The long-seething disputes in the South China Sea, alarm over North Korea's missile tests and the rise of Islamic radicalism in the region amid a deadly siege by Islamic State group-linked militants in the southern Philippines are expected to grab the spotlight in the meetings of ASEAN foreign ministers and their Asian and Western counterparts in Manila starting Saturday.

AP

In this Aug. 6, 2013, file photo, the BRP Ramon Alcaraz, the second warship of the Philippine Navy, prepares to dock for a formal welcoming ceremony at Subic Freeport, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of Manila, Philippines.

Robespierre Bolivar, the spokesman of the Department of Foreign Affairs, described the initial progress after yearslong efforts by Southeast Asian countries to negotiate a code of conduct with China "as a very big step."

Critics have said the framework only serves as a brief outline of previously agreed principles and failed to mention concerns over China's newly built islands and an arbitration ruling last year that invalidated Beijing's historic basis for its claims to virtually all of the South China Sea. Beijing has refused to recognize the ruling based on a 1982 maritime treaty.

The draft communique, still to be expanded with inputs from other ASEAN member states, doesn't mention concern and alarm over China's artificial islands, which have reportedly been installed with a missile defense system. Those concerns have appeared in previous ASEAN joint statements.

A carefully crafted and subtle line on the dangers lurking in the dispute appears in the draft statement. "We reaffirmed the importance of enhancing mutual trust and confidence, exercising self-restraint ... and avoiding unilateral actions in disputed features that may further complicate the situation," it said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan official says explosion inside mosque kills 20

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan hospital official says an explosion inside a minority Shiite mosque in western Herat, on the border with Iran, has killed at least 20 people. The official, Dr. Mohammed Rafique Shehrzad, said 20 bodies were brought to his Main Hospital in Herat city, the capital of western Herat province Monday night, soon after the blast shattered the late evening. Shiites are a minority in Afghanistan and have been threatened by the Islamic State affiliate that operates in the country's east. No one immediately took responsibility for the attack on the Jawadia Mosque in Herat.

Former PMs in Thai court ahead of abuse of power verdict

BANGKOK (AP)—Two former Thai prime ministers have arrived in court in Bangkok to hear verdicts in their trial arising from the quelling of an anti-government protest in 2008. Somchai Wongsawat and his then-deputy Chavalit Yongchaiyudh have both denied the charges of abuse of power. The charges allege they authorized police to use force to clear protesters who had blockaded the National Assembly building. A pitched battle erupted, injuring several hundred people and causing two deaths. Some of the most serious wounds were caused by tear gas canisters that exploded as they landed. Somchai is the brother-in-law of Thaksin Shinawatra, the popular prime minister deposed by a 2006 coup. His supporters see the various criminal cases against Thaksin, Somchai and others as attempts to erase his influence from Thai political life.

Malaysia seizes ivory, pangolin scales from Africa

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian authorities say they've seized 23 pieces of elephant tusks and 301 kilograms (664 pounds) of pangolin scales believed to have been smuggled from Africa in a haul worth nearly $1 million. Customs senior official Mohamad Pudzi Man said officials raided the Kuala Lumpur airport cargo warehouse Sunday and found the ivory in two boxes marked as "food stuff." He said Wednesday that the ivory, worth 275,000 ringgit ($64,139), was flown in on an Etihad Airways flight from Lagos and transited in Abu Dhabi before arriving in Kuala Lumpur. He said that later Sunday, officials confiscated six sacks of pangolin scales worth 3.86 million ringgit ($900,291) shortly after it arrived on an Ethiopian Airlines flight from Congo. Mohamad Pudzi said no one was arrested and the case was under investigation.

World

Islamic school seeks to steer sons of militants to new path

SEI MENCIRIM, Indonesia (AP)—The slim boys in Muslim caps and robes at the Al Hidayah Islamic boarding school are grinning bolts of energy who love football, need a little coaxing to do their math and Quran lessons assiduously and aspire to become policemen or respected preachers.

Their school, like many in rural Indonesia, started as a modest affair with a dusty yard, spartan sleeping quarters and an open-air classroom with a dirt floor and corrugated iron roofing. The boys, though, have been spoken to roughly by villagers, the school's banners and billboards trampled and burned, and its head teacher reported to police.

The 20 pupils are the sons of Islamic militants, reviled by most Indonesians for killings and other acts of violence that they justified with distorted interpretations of Islam. Nearly half of the boys' fathers were killed in police raids, and in some cases the children witnessed the deaths. Most of the other fathers are in prison for terrorism offenses.

Al Hidayah's founder, Khairul Ghazali, is a former radical preacher whose involvement in militancy stretches back decades. He was recruited at age 19 by Abdullah Sungkar, the now-deceased leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group responsible for attacks including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people.

Nowadays, the soft-spoken Ghazali, 52, professes to be a changed man who wants to atone by preventing his young charges, who were ostracized and taunted at mainstream schools, from becoming the next generation of Indonesian jihadists. His three sons attend the school.

A turning point, he said, came in 2010 when anti-terror police raided his home in North Sumatra and shot dead two other militants, wanted for killing police officers, in front of him, his wife and children. In prison, he dwelt on his decades of jihad and in the hours spent poring over the Quran found his past wanting. With the encouragement of prison officials, he wrote several books against radicalism, earning the enmity of other jihadists who denounced him as an infidel who deserves death.

"It's hurt our innocent children. It's hurt us," said Ghazali, who was released in 2015 after serving four years for offenses that included a major bank robbery to fund attacks. "Stigmatization, poverty and the fact that many innocent people were killed and the destruction we caused all accumulated into an inner torment."

Ghazali's school in North Sumatra is supported by counterterrorism officials but is only a small dent in a largely undiscussed problem. By his reckoning, there are at least 2,000 sons and daughters of killed and imprisoned militants at risk of becoming battle fodder for a new wave of jihadism.

Indonesia has had successes in rooting out violent militants but officials acknowledge risks remain. A 2015 Pew survey of Indonesians showed that 4 percent, or about 10 million people, had a favorable attitude toward the Islamic State group. A survey by Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting in May this year showed 9 percent support Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, changing from a secular to an Islamic state. A few Islamic boarding schools churn out students susceptible to violent radicalization.

The IS group's declaration of a caliphate over swaths of territory it temporarily held in Iraq and Syria, and more recently the occupation of the southern Philippine city of Marawi by IS sympathizers, has provided a psychological boost to militant networks in Indonesia that had been atomized by a sustained crackdown. As the group's territory in the Middle East shrinks, officials fear Indonesians who fought there, or in Marawi, will return to Indonesia and provide leadership and skills that could help produce more lethal attacks.

Sitting in a classroom just after dawn with students whose ages range from 9 to 15, Ghazali tells them stories about the life of the Prophet Muhammad to show them, he said, that Islam is a religion of love and mercy, not an ideology to justify a war against police, currently the most frequent target of militant attacks in Indonesia.

Abdullah, 13, and his two younger brothers were sent by their mother to Ghazali's boarding school last year because of the hostility they faced at their regular school.

"I can't stand the taunts at school," he said, his lips trembling. "I dropped out when I was in the third grade and I had to move from place to place. I was insulted as a terrorist kid when my father was in prison. I was so sad."

Abdullah said his favorite activities at school are football and Arabic lessons. He aspires to become an Islamic teacher because "there are many people who claim to know Islam but actually they don't know what Islam is and how to practice it."

The initial hostility the school faced when it opened in 2015 has faded. Local police talked to villagers, raising awareness about its purpose. A stream of officials from the district and provincial governments and the military visited to show their support.

Villager Hendra Widiarto, who lives about 300 meters (yards) from the school, said lack of information about it and its makeshift appearance made locals suspicious, and they became confrontational when they learned about the backgrounds of Ghazali and the students.

Nowadays, Widiarto, a carpenter, helps Ghazali make cabinets and bookshelves for the school. Every Friday, people from surrounding villages and students from government schools come to Al Hidayah to pray.

"If ever possible, I want my own two children to learn morals and discipline at this school," he said.

At the request of the National Agency for Counter-Terrorism, the local government last year provided 30 hectares of land next to the school and agency's chief collected donations from companies and businessmen that allowed a substantial mosque and two sturdy classrooms, painted lime green, for up to 60 students to be built. The original open-air classroom now has a tiled floor and construction of better living quarters will start next month; Ghazali said that will allow the boarding school to also accept the daughters of militants and kids with ordinary backgrounds.

Another school that can cater to 100 students has been set up with the counter-terrorism agency's assistance in Lamongan, the East Java hometown of three brothers who assembled a massive bomb used in the 2002 Bali attack.

Focus

Teen criminals savor freedom as parole ends life sentences

By ADAM GELLER and SHARON COHEN
AP NATIONAL WRITERS

AP

Earl Rice Jr., right, greets Justin Coleman as he arrives to help family members paint a newly-bought home in Wilmington, Del., Saturday, May 20, 2017.

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—It's just a few blocks from the house Earl Rice Jr. left behind as a teenager to the places he remembers. But after more than four decades in prison, he has ground to cover.

Skirting Franklin Street's neatly trimmed lawns in long strides, and praising the glories of the afternoon heat, he reaches the park where he and his brothers used to go sledding. Across 18th, kids, laughing and shouting, bound down school steps. Rice slows, taking it all in.

"For 43 years I'm behind a wall or some kind of a fence with guard towers ... and then you come out here," he says. "I can imagine what Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong and them felt like going to the moon, because that's what it seems like. I'm on a different planet!"

Rice, jailed at 17 for a purse-snatching that took a woman's life, is 61 now. He is one of dozens of inmates—sentenced to life in prison without parole for crimes committed as juveniles—who have been released since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled such mandatory sentences amount to cruel and unusual punishment. Courts must recognize teens' incomplete brain development and their potential to change, the justices found.

Rice walked out of a Pennsylvania prison in September to find his fiancee at the gate, a father waiting to take him in and a daughter who now calls each day to say, "Good morning, Daddy."

Others, though, have confronted less welcoming realities.

When John Hall was released from a Michigan prison in February after nearly 50 years behind bars, he had $1.37 in his pocket. At 67, he carried his life's possessions in a few boxes: a small TV and a photo album filled with faded newspaper clippings and pictures of himself in white satin boxing trunks, from his fighting days as "Kid Hall." With no family to greet him, he was met by his lawyer and volunteers who brought him to his first home—a Detroit rescue mission.

"I don't think you can find anyone who really can describe how it feels to be free ... but I'm always thinking about my future and sleeping in the streets and not having a chance to even get in the fight for the life that I want," Hall said then. "The world has moved past me."

In the weeks since, Hall has joined Rice in embracing a truth the Supreme Court justices never addressed.

Juvenile offenders can take responsibility for their crimes. Judges and parole boards can assess how they have changed. But to make it at 60-something in a world that has tossed aside most of what you knew as a teenager, it takes something more.

By 17, Earl Rice had spent a year in a juvenile detention facility. The oldest son in a family of nine children, he was raised by a homemaker and a maintenance worker. His father's sideline as a jazz organist kept him away nights—an absence the elder Rice, 89, says he regrets. Rice Jr., by his own account, was "ornery as hell," known to police for stealing cars and break-ins.

In September 1973, Rice went to a party in West Chester, Pennsylvania, his hometown before moving to Wilmington. When he left around 2 a.m. with another teen, they spotted a woman walking down the street.

Ola Danenberg had just left the Moose Lodge, where she'd been listening to a country band with friends. She was 62 and the grandmother of three, cleaned dorms at the local college, and was looking forward to retiring to her hometown in eastern Tennessee. She didn't drive. So that night, like most, she set out for home on foot.

Rice and his friend ran toward her, and Rice snatched her purse. As he took off down an alley, he says he looked back to see Danenberg fall to her knees.

Two days later, hearing police were looking for him, Rice went to the police station and confessed to robbery. That's when detectives told him Danenberg had hit her head on the sidewalk and died. They charged him with murder.

"It was like being hit in the gut by a Joe Frazier left hook. ... I couldn't fathom the idea of being responsible for somebody's death," Rice recalls.

Danenberg's family still mourns.

"She loved us so much. We were her life," says Charlene Peterson, who was 15 when Rice killed her grandmother. "I want him to know how he hurt us, what he took away from us."

Hall, too, was frequently in trouble as a teen, engaging in petty theft and skipping school. He worried his mother, Bessie, who worked seven days a week cooking and cleaning other people's homes.

In January 1967, when he was 17, Hall and a friend saw Albert Hoffman at a bus stop in Detroit one night. They dragged him into an alley, then beat and robbed him of his watch and some money; his wife told police Hoffman had gone out to cash his Social Security and veteran's pension checks.

Hoffman, a former Army sergeant who served in World War I, died of his injuries on his 73rd birthday.

The friend was never arrested, but Hall was convicted of murder. A half-century later, he still cringes when he remembers the judge's words at sentencing: "You're unfit, you're a throwaway, you're a predator and you should be put away for the rest of your life."

"Everything was a blur and everything was moving so fast," Hall says. "But when I looked at my mother's face ... it was a look that I'd never seen before. It was a hurt look ... a helplessness."

In prison, he got into his first fight early. Two inmates pulled Hall into a bathroom and stabbed him in the neck, where he still has a scar.

"If they had let me go two weeks after I was there, I would have never ever done anything wrong again, because that's when you realize it's for real," he says in his deep rasp. "There ain't nothing worth your freedom. Nothing."

Years passed with few visitors. He wanted to do his time, he says, without leaning on family for help. His mother made eight trips to see him before her death in 1983. But her words helped him keep going. "'As long as there's life, there's hope,'" she'd told him. "'You've got a chance.'"

And so he kept busy, taking college courses, earning an associate degree, deciding that even if he never got out, he could be a better man. Still, he dreamed of having a family of his own, a good job and a nice home. He befriended newly arrived inmates, savoring every detail they provided about life outside. But nothing could prepare him for the changes he'd encounter, starting with his first day of freedom in February.

Hall, who'd grown up in the era of the transistor radio, was handed a cellphone so he could share a FaceTime call with his stepsister in Georgia. "This is just like Star Trek," he said with a wide grin as he stared at the face he hadn't seen in more than 30 years.

But anxiety soon set in. Back home in Detroit, he puzzled over "10 for $10" signs at grocery stores that touted special deals. He was alarmed when he heard gunshots outside at 2 a.m. Seeing homeless people, he worried constantly about becoming one of them. Sometimes he'd shake and ask, "What am I going to do?" says June Walker, who runs a prison ministry that provided clothes, housing—and friendship.

Hall was determined and eager to work, but job prospects didn't pan out. Quickly, as Hall figured out small things—how to ride the bus, how to use a cellphone—his confidence steadied. After a month in the mission, Walker arranged for him to move into a halfway house. He set up his little prison TV in the bedroom corner.

"I have it as a reminder of where I came from," he said.

On Rice's first day in prison, an inmate he knew from home warned: "'You're a young kid. You're in here with some dangerous dudes.'"

"Not two hours after that conversation," Rice remembers, "this guy came up to me and he said, 'Damn, fresh meat in the jail,' and I turned around and I hit him as hard as I could and I kept hitting him until he was down on the ground, and I made sure he stayed down."

Years later, another inmate came at him with a knife in the prison yard. That convinced Rice he might well die without changing himself.

Even so, more than a decade passed in prison before he came to terms with his responsibility for Danenberg's death. When his legal appeals ran out, he blamed his lawyer for giving up on him. The attorney's letter back was a turning point.

"I'm sorry you feel that way," the lawyer wrote, according to Rice. "It's not that I'm quitting and throwing your life away. You did that when you grabbed Mrs. Danenberg's purse."

"He was dead on," Rice says.

In 1992, Rice was one of three inmates who intervened when dozens of prisoners surrounded four guards and began throwing punches. He took classes in refrigeration. He cared for dying inmates in the prison hospice. He spoke regularly to at-risk teens and law students, in part to learn how to interact with people other than inmates and guards, in the hope that he'd one day live free.

His siblings and parents, a daughter born to a former girlfriend and her children were all regular visitors, as was Doreen St. John, Rice's girlfriend in middle school. The couple married in a prison wedding, then divorced, and now plan to marry again.

"I fell back in love with him, just seeing him, being with him," St. John says.

When she picked him up last fall from the state prison in Graterford, Pennsylvania, Rice asked her to gun the engine.

"I didn't want to look back and see the walls at all," he says.

See TEEN on Next Page

Environment

Video of fishermen dragging shark behind boat prompts Fla. officials to expand probe

By SARA NEALEIGH and JENNY STALETOVICH
MIAMI HERALD

BRADENTON, Fla.—New images that have surfaced in the wake of a troubling video showing a group of Gulf Coast anglers dragging a shark behind a speeding boat prompted Florida wildlife officials Friday to expand their investigation.

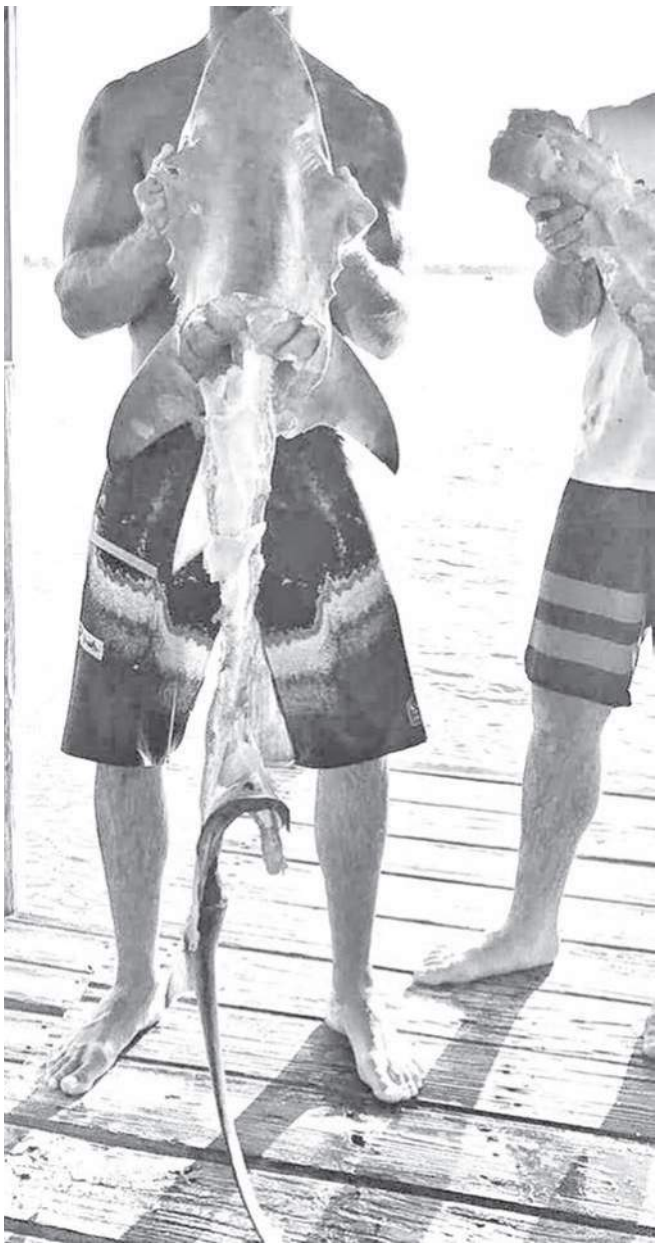
The images also led Gov. Rick Scott on Friday to call for a review of state fishing regulations to prevent such behavior.

"The brutality and disrespect shown to this animal is sickening and I am sure that you share in my outrage over these individuals' heinous acts," Scott wrote to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The latest video shows a man pouring beer over a hammerhead shark and trying to drink it. A label on the video reads, "Who needs a beer bong."

It's unclear if any laws were broken, FWC spokesman Rob Klepper wrote in an email, but "the lack of respect shown for our precious natural resources shown in this video is disheartening and disturbing, and is not representative of conservation-minded anglers around the world."

The commission has not released the names of the four men who earlier in the week whipped up an internet fury when Mark "Mark the Shark" Quartiano, a well-known shark hunter, posted a video the men sent him. In it, they speed along in a boat, laughing and taking pictures of a shark they've tied by the tail as it flops and twists in the boat wake. But local news and online commenters have identified two as Michael Wenzel and Robert Lee "Bo" Benac.



AP

A group of Gulf Coast anglers triggered outrage when they posted a video showing them dragging a shark by the tail behind a speeding boat. The sent the video, and this picture of the shark taken afterward, to Capt. Mark Quartiano.

Attorney Jon Weiffenbach, who said he is representing the men in the video, declined to comment Friday.

"None of the individuals in the video have been charged criminally and no one has been arrested," he responded to the Miami Herald. "I am friends with the families of the young men, but have no comment regarding the video in my capacity as an attorney."

Outrage over the video has spread across the internet, fueling two Change.org petitions that had collected more than 18,000 signatures by Friday. In the days after Quartiano posted the video, condemning the stunt as #notcool, other images surfaced including a trove received by Save the Tarpon from 2015.

The Gulf Coast nonprofit complained to state wildlife officials, which prompted a federal investigation based on photos showing Wenzel grabbing a pelican and tern. The case was closed in January with no charges filed. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman Mark Davis said proving the cases can be difficult.

"All statutes require the government to prove the level of culpability, which varies by statute," he said in an email. "It is often very hard to prove all of the elements based on one Instagram picture."

On Friday, Manatee County School District confirmed that both Wenzel and Benac attended Manatee County schools but citing a federal privacy law weren't able to provide additional information. The other two men in the video, whose names have not been released, also attended Manatee schools.

In 2014, Wenzel was charged with three first-degree misdemeanors and pleaded no contest, according to Manatee County court documents. Adjudication was withheld. Charges included possessing alcohol under the age of 21; having a false I.D.; and carrying a concealed weapon (brass knuckles).

A call to Benac's cellphone this week by the Bradenton Herald was met with the response, "I have no comment for you."

Wenzel's father is Robert Wenzel, the Manatee County planning section manager; Benac's mother is Betsy Benac, chairwoman of the Manatee County Commission. Neither parent has responded to requests for comment.

Palmetto Police Chief Scott Tyler confirmed the Wenzels have requested patrols near their home, and the department has been doing that over the last couple of days.

Manatee County Sheriff's Office spokesman Dave Bristow said he did not know of any similar requests from the Benac family.

In response to Scott's letter, FWC Chairman Brian Yablonski said late Friday the agency was eager to "strengthen regulations" if needed.

"These individuals do not represent the sentiments and conscientious actions of millions of conservation-minded anglers around the world," he wrote.

Hawaiian fisherman sues to restrict foreign fishing licenses

HONOLULU (AP)—A Native Hawaiian fisherman is asking an environmental court to stop Hawaii officials from issuing commercial fishing licenses to those who aren't legally admitted into the United States.

Malama Chun, a Maui resident who fishes as a cultural practice, filed an appeal on July 27 of a state Board of Land and Natural Resources decision denying his petition. Chun filed his petition in April in response to an Associated Press investigation that found hundreds of foreign fishermen confined to boats and some living in subpar conditions. Hawaii grants the foreign fishermen licenses to fish, but they aren't allowed to enter the country.

The board, which regulates fishing licenses, denied the petition last month without a hearing. Chun didn't show how not issuing the licenses would address his concerns about overfishing and cultural practices. His attorney, Lance Collins, said Tuesday that because the board made a decision without holding a hearing or conducting any fact-finding, the board must take all stated facts as true.

"The members of the (board) must have been too ashamed to make their decision at a public meeting," Collins said. "The situation is bad for these fishermen and it's bad for Hawaii's people. And I know in their hearts they know it's wrong, which is why they didn't give us a hearing before deciding."

A spokesman for the Department of Land and Natural Resources didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment. There was no public meeting because under state law, the board isn't required to hold one for petitions for declaratory relief, said Joshua Wisch, a spokesman for the state attorney general's office.

Chun argues in his appeal that confining fishermen to ships violates the "law of the Splintered Paddle," a state law with origins in the Hawaiian Kingdom which says people in Hawaii must have freedom of movement. "These unfair and illegal labor practices violate this constitutional and Hawaiian Kingdom-era law protecting the rights of the common person, specifically the vulnerable foreign workers that are exploited by the longline fishing industry," the appeal said.

The board in its decision said it doesn't have jurisdiction to consider allegations of unfair labor practices.

TEEN

From Page 17

Juvenile lifers in Pennsylvania and Michigan get re-entry training before leaving prison, focused on subjects like budgeting and anger management. The Pennsylvania Prison Society has been pairing them with mentors, often former inmates, who assist as the lifers are released to halfway houses and beyond; Michigan's appellate defender's office provides similar help.

Rice spent a month at a Philadelphia halfway house. He was granted 12-hour passes to walk around the city with other parolees. He tried his first cheesesteak, learned to use a touchscreen to place a food order at a convenience store. In October, he moved back to his father's house in Wilmington and settled in to a bedroom lined with his father's jazz tapes and records.

Father and son often take to the porch, talking a shared loved of music. In the middle of many nights, Rice heads to the kitchen to make himself a sandwich—just because he can.

He applied, without luck, for warehouse jobs and realized he needed computer skills even to fill out an application. So on Thursdays and Fridays, he takes free computer classes at the Department of Labor.

"You don't breathe and live and eat and sleep something for all them years that you want, that you crave, that you pray to happen, and then when it happens, be intimidated by it," he says.

His first weekend back, five generations of family—from great aunts to grandchildren—gathered in a grove along Brandywine Creek to throw him a cookout. It had been more than four decades since a judge allowed Rice a moment to hold his newborn daughter, Crystal, just after he was convicted. Now, as music floated over the grass, Crystal Twyman walked over to her father.

"I've never danced with my daddy before," she said.

Rice, who went by "Big Earl" in prison, has arms thick with muscle from pumping weights in the yard, and a loud laugh. But talking about those closest to him, he often turns quiet.

"For years and years, I didn't have to worry about anybody but Earl Rice," he recalls telling St. John. So "when I do something bullheaded, keep talking to me. ... I am listening, but you got to keep on hammering."

In April, Hall's prison ministry friend, June Walker, drove him to see his 81-year-old stepsister in Georgia. On the 13-hour drive from Michigan, he talked about making it a quick trip, not wanting to burden his family.

But when Hall entered the house, he found his own picture on the wall. Generations of family he didn't even know embraced him, calling him "Uncle John." Relatives put together a photo album for him, and one tucked a $100 bill inside. His stepsister offered him a permanent room in her home. He thanked her but declined.

Back in Detroit, they spoke regularly. "You shouldn't have to feel you're a failure because you've been to prison," she told him.

Hall began acknowledging his limitations. "I want to live like a grown man lives in a free society," he says. "But it got to be too much for me in a world that I'm already behind in."

He began to think maybe he didn't have to go it alone.

Life & Style

Game of Thrones: Doesn't anyone here want to make any money?

This photo provided by HBO shows Emilia Clarke as "Mother of Dragons" Daenerys Targaryen and Kit Harington as Jon Snow in a scene from HBO's "Game of Thrones."

AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Iron Bank on "Game of Thrones" could make a lot of money hoarding dragonglass. And Samwell Tarly is sitting on a potential goldmine with his breakthrough cure for greyscale.

Most fans of the HBO hit series were enthralled on Sunday to see "Mother of Dragons" Daenerys Targaryen finally meet the resurrected Jon Snow. But as economics writers for The Associated Press, we mostly saw missed opportunities. Doesn't anyone on this show want to make a bundle?

We discuss the Iron Bank's investment strategies and Littlefinger's long-game plotting on our weekly audio show, "The Wealth of Westeros."

On Sunday's episode, the fearsome Iron Bank of Braavos doubled down on its so-far money-losing commitment to the Lannister family, whose main asset is exhausted gold mines.

Yet much better investment opportunities abound: They could quietly purchase mining rights to the ground beneath the majestic Dragonstone castle, which is packed with dragonglass. The obsidian-like material can kill the marauding white walkers and their zombie army gathering in the North.

And a modern bank would also provide opportunities for master-trainee Tarly, a long-time fan favorite, to monetize his medical breakthrough. Greyscale is a painful, gruesome disease that typically has no cure. But Tarly has dug one up from obscure medical texts and cured Ser Jorah Mormont.

The bank's focus on low-growth lending—to governments and slave traders—epitomizes the forces that have kept Westeros economically and technologically stagnant. There is no infrastructure to support new or expanding businesses.

Still, the Iron Bank's representative, Tycho Nestoris, did take one position that made sense: His reluctance to back Daenerys over Cersei Lannister. The bank has earned its intimidating reputation by financing rebellions against monarchs who are unable to repay their debts.

But for all its quiet power, the bank is in a tough spot. Cersei's position doesn't look great on paper—she is facing an army with three huge dragons. But the alternatives of Jon Snow and Daenerys aren't so hot either. Snow does not really care about the Iron Throne, and Daenerys may not want to pay back the crown's debts.

"Who's your alternative?" asks Evan Burfield, CEO of startup incubator and venture capital firm 1776, an avid Game of Thrones fan and the guest on this week's audio show. "They're going to have to double down on Cersei, because even though she's a bad bet, she's kind of the only play they have to get their core capital back."

And as Cersei notes, Daenerys is a "revolutionary" who wants to upend the existing order.

"In your experience, how do bankers usually fare with revolutionaries?" Cersei asks.

Historically, not very well. There is even a modern economic concept of "odious debt," a term that describes borrowing by dictatorships or colonial governments that successive governments, particularly more democratic ones, try to disavow.

An early example was the aftermath of the Spanish-American War, when the U.S. government, having won temporary control of Cuba, argued that Cuba should not have to pay debts incurred by its Spanish colonial rulers.

If Daenerys ultimately takes the Iron Throne, the Iron Bank could need a bailout.

Kevin James' TV wife killed off with Leah Remini's arrival

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—CBS' new entertainment bosses got more than a warm welcome as reporters grilled them on the network's lack of diversity.

"We are absolutely moving in the right direction," declared Kelly Kahl, who was named president of CBS Entertainment in May, the same time Thom Sherman, who was also on hand for Tuesday's session, became senior executive vice president for programming.

The two execs were reminded that, for the second season in a row, no women landed the lead role of a new CBS series.

"We had six pilots with female leads, but those pilots were not felt to be as good as some of the other pilots," said Sherman, quickly adding, "That had nothing to do with the female leads."

As examples of other kinds of casting diversity, they pointed to the upcoming police thriller "S.W.A.T." and returning comedy "Superior Donuts" as two shows with African-American stars—Shemar Moore and Jermaine Fowler, respectively.

A mid-season crime drama, "Instinct," will star Alan Cumming, who is gay, as a former CIA operative who is gay.

"There is change happening on CBS," Kahl said.

CBS was recently put on the spot with the departures of Asian actors Daniel Dae Kim and Grace Park from "Hawaii Five-0" ahead of its eighth season. They both decided to exit after seeking, and failing to get, pay equal to their white co-stars, Alex O'Loughlin and Scott Caan.

"We tried our darnedest to keep them," said Kahl, referring to renewed salary negotiations that followed the uproar.

In a different sort of cast change, the execs shared details on the Kevin James comedy "Kevin Can Wait," which for its sophomore season will eliminate family man Kevin Gable's wife Donna (departing costar Erinn Hayes) and reunite James with Leah Remini, his TV wife for nine seasons on "The King of Queens."

The new season will flash forward roughly a year to find Donna killed off and Kevin Gable widowed, clearing the deck for Remini, who guest-starred in a couple of episodes that closed out last season.

Remini's appearances on the show were as a stunt, not a tryout, Kahl said.

"But there was just an undeniable spark there," he said, "and I think Kevin, the studios, and the network all got together and wanted to keep that magic and chemistry going forward."

Met Museum of Art turns ancient vase over to prosecutors

This undated photo provided by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, shows a terracotta bell-krater dating back to 360-350 BC.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—An ancient vase that for years was housed in the elegant galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Art is taking up space in a much different place—a prosecutor's office.

The vase, known as a bell krater and used to hold wine, has been the subject of questions over its provenance and whether it was originally looted from Italy decades ago. A warrant issued July 24 said it "constitutes evidence, and tends to demonstrate that the crime of criminal possession of stolen property in the second degree was committed."

The museum bought the piece at an auction in 1989 for just under $100,000. It said it had been reaching out to the Italian government's Ministry of Culture after an image of the vase was published in 2014, similar to how it had handled other issues concerning artifacts, and cooperated with the office of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance.

"When the Manhattan DA contacted the Met in recent months, we immediately took the piece off display," museum spokesman Ken Weine said.

The museum turned over the piece, which dates to 360-350 B.C. and has an image of the Greek god Dionysus being pulled in a cart, on July 25 and gave the district attorney's office all related paperwork. Vance's office declined to comment.

The issue of artifacts with questionable provenances is one that has come up before in New York. In May, seven statues and vessels dating as far back as the eighth century B.C. were returned to Italian officials after coming to light at two art galleries. Vance's office said they had been looted from Italy in the 1990s and smuggled out of the country.

In December 2016, the U.S. returned to Italy a marble statue that had been stolen from Rome in 1983 and turned in to officials in 2015.

In April 2016, a stone sculpture of Buddha's footprints that had been taken from a region in Pakistan in the early 1980s was returned to that country. An antiquities dealer who pleaded guilty to criminal possession of stolen property said he had shipped it to the United States to sell at a gallery for more than $1 million.

Discovery and Scripps seek to tie up in $12 billion TV deal

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—Discovery Communications will buy Scripps Networks for close to $12 billion, tying together two powerful stables of TV shows ranging from Animal Planet to the Food Network.

The deal, announced Monday, puts the combined company in a stronger position to draw more women viewers and to navigate an increasingly chaotic entertainment landscape, where cable companies and streaming services like Netflix and Hulu fight for eyes.

Discovery owns TLC and the Discovery Channel. Scripps owns HGTV and the Travel Channel, among others. The combined company will house five of the top pay TV networks for women and account for more than 20 percent share of women watching prime-time pay TV in the U.S.

By combining the content of each company, Discovery has more power to create "skinny bundle" options for viewers, which offer fewer channels and are cheaper for people unwilling to shell out for a big, monthly cable bill.

The companies on Monday said they will produce approximately 8,000 hours of original programming each year, and possess 300,000 hours of library content. They have the potential to generate 7 billion short-form video streams monthly, according to Discovery.

The transaction is valued at $90 per share, about a 4 percent premium to Scripps' Friday closing price of $86.91. The per-share price includes $63 per share in cash and $27 per share in Discovery's Class C shares. The transaction also includes approximately $2.7 billion in Scripps' debt.

The companies said Monday that they expect about $350 million in cost savings.

The buyout, which still needs approval from the shareholders of both companies, is targeted to close by early next year.

Shares of Discovery Communications Inc., based in Silver Spring, Maryland, rose 2.6 percent before the market opened. Shares of Scripps Networks Interactive Inc., based in Knoxville, Tennessee, edged up slightly.

Kanye West's touring company sues over concert insurance

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawsuit filed Tuesday by representatives of Kanye West claims insurers have failed to pay nearly $10 million for West's canceled Saint Pablo Tour last year.

The suit filed by Very Good Touring against several Lloyd's of London syndicates alleges breach of contract and seeks punitive damages and attorney fees beyond the $9.8 million in concert losses.

An after-hours message left for Lloyd's of London's New York office was not immediately returned.

West canceled several scheduled concert appearances last year.

He missed a few dates after his wife, Kim Kardashian West, was robbed in Paris. West canceled the remainder of his tour after he was admitted for undisclosed reasons to UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital in November.

Very Good Touring says in its court filing that it obtained insurance against "accidental bodily injury or illness" for West's entire tour, and that his hospitalization qualifies.

The tour company says West submitted to an independent medical exam and that he and 11 of his associates have given statements under oath to insurance investigators, who have yet to pay or deny the claim.

Very Good Touring is seeking a jury trial in the matter.

Texas calf born looking like KISS rocker Gene Simmons

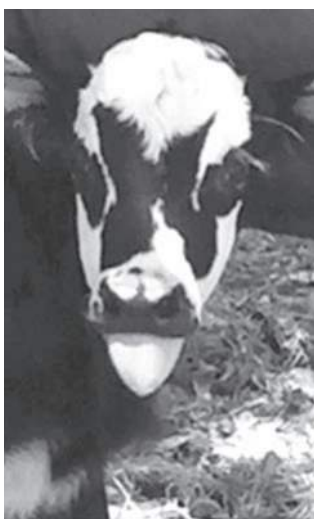
KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — KISS frontman Gene Simmons is udderly thrilled by a newborn calf born with strikingly similar black-and-white markings to the face paint he wears on stage.

Simmons tweeted his admiration for the calf on Sunday, saying, "This is real, folks!!!"

The calf was born Friday at a ranch near Kerrville, Texas, which is about 60 miles (96 kilometers) northwest of San Antonio.

Heather Taccetta (tuh-SET'-uh), who lives at the ranch with her family, said Tuesday that the calf belongs to her grandmother. It is named Genie, in honor of Simmons.

Taccetta says the calf and its mother are doing fine and that Genie is a family favorite and won't be sold for slaughter.



AP

This July 28, 2017, photo at right, provided by Heather Taccetta in Kerrville, Texas, shows a newborn calf named Genie, with facial marking that resemble Gene Simmons, the bass player for the rock group KISS, shortly after its birth in Kerrville.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rowling apologizes for claiming Trump ignored disabled boy

LONDON (AP)—J.K. Rowling has apologized for tweets alleging that U.S. President Donald Trump refused to shake the hand of a disabled boy. The "Harry Potter" author called Trump "horrible" after seeing footage of the president appearing to ignore the child's outstretched hand during a White House event last week. But the boy's mother, Marjorie Kelly Weer, posted on Facebook: "Trump didn't snub my son & Monty wasn't even trying to shake his hand." Rowling, who has often criticized Trump, said she "apologized unreservedly." She tweeted Monday that "I very clearly projected my own sensitivities around the issue of disabled people being overlooked or ignored onto the images I saw." The author has deleted her original tweets on the subject.

Stevie Wonder, Green Day to play Global Citizen Festival

NEW YORK (AP)—Stevie Wonder, Green Day, The Killers, The Lumineers and The Chainsmokers will perform at this year's Global Citizen Festival, an annual free event held in New York's Central Park. Special guests Pharrell Williams, Big Sean, Andra Day and Alessia Cara will also perform at the Sept. 23 event. MSNBC and Comcast NBCUniversal will air a live simulcast of the full concert on MSNBC and MSNBC.com. There also will be some crossover with the iHeartRadio Music Festival taking place the same weekend, including Big Sean, who will perform on both stages in one night. Fans can earn their free tickets for admission by joining the movement at globalcitizenfestival.com.

Tom Hiddleston to play 'Hamlet' at tiny London theater

LONDON (AP)—"Thor" star Tom Hiddleston is to play Hamlet on the London stage—but fans will need a bit of luck to get a ticket. Hiddleston is set to play the moody Danish prince for three weeks in September at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art's 180-seat theater. The production, directed by Kenneth Branagh, is a fundraiser for the theater school, one of Britain's best. Branagh and Hiddleston are both graduates of RADA. Hiddleston said Tuesday that he hoped money raised would help the school train theater artists from every background, and "keep the doors open for everyone." The production runs Sept. 1-23. Tickets will be sold to people chosen at random after entering a ballot , open from Tuesday until 6 p.m. (1700GMT) Sunday.

John Updike's Pennsylvania childhood home to become museum

SHILLINGTON, Pa. (AP)—The Pennsylvania childhood home of author John Updike is nearing its transformation into a museum and literary center. The future of the Shillington home had been uncertain until The John Updike Society purchased it in 2012. Since then, the society has worked to re-create the 1930's vibe of the late Pulitzer Prize winner's home, based on old photographs and Updike's writings. Updike spent the first 13 years of his life in the Shillington house, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) northwest of Philadelphia. The Reading Eagle reports Updike's daughter is donating furniture from his childhood to the museum. The Updike Society says restoration should be finished by the end of summer. Updike won Pulitzers for the novels "Rabbit Is Rich" and "Rabbit at Rest." He died in 2009 at age 76.

Cosby's defense attorney wants off the case before retrial

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby's defense attorney in his sex assault trial that ended with a deadlocked jury wants off the case before a retrial that's scheduled to begin in November. Lead defense lawyer Brian McMonagle of Philadelphia filed documents Tuesday seeking to withdraw as Cosby's counsel. He says Cosby is taking steps to secure new lawyers. Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill will consider the request at a pre-trial conference Aug. 22. Cosby is being retried on charges he drugged and molested Andrea Constand more than a decade ago. Prosecutors found themselves back at square one June 17 after a judge declared a mistrial. The jury failed to reach a verdict in more than 52 hours of deliberations. The 80-year-old comedian has said his encounter with the former Temple University worker was consensual.

CHART TOPPERS

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Aug. 1, 2017:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. Minecraft: Pocket Edition, Mojang
2. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
3. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
4. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi
5. MONOPOLY Game, Electronic Arts
6. Facetune, Lightricks Ltd.
7. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
8. The Escapists, Team17 Software Ltd
9. iSchedule, HotSchedules
10. Scribblenauts Remix, Warner Bros.

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. Sarahah, ZainAlabdin Tawfiq
2. YouTube - Watch Videos, Music,..., Google, Inc.
3. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
4. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.
5. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
6. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
7. Flappy Dunk, Voodoo
8. Bitmoji - Your Personal Emoji, Bitstrips
9. Google Maps - Navigation & Tra..., Google, Inc.
10. Gmail - email by Google: secur..., Google, Inc.

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Minecraft: Pocket Edition, Mojang
2. Procreate - Sketch, paint, cre..., Savage Interactive Pty Ltd
3. The Escapists, Team17 Software Ltd
4. Notability, Ginger Labs
5. Geometry DashRobTop Games AB
6. Scribblenauts Remix, Warner Bros.
7. Minecraft: Story Mode - Season..., Telltale Inc
8. Terraria505 Games (US), Inc.
9. Five Nights at Freddy's, Scott Cawthon
10. Goat Simulator PAYDAY, Coffee Stain Studios AB

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. YouTube - Watch Videos, Music,..., Google, Inc.
2. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
3. Gymnastics Superstar - Get a P..., Coco Play
4. Bowmasters - Top Multiplayer B..., Playgendary
5. ROBLOX, Roblox Corporation
6. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
7. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
8. Snake VS Block, Voodoo
9. Hungry Shark World, Ubisoft
10. Strawberry Shortcake Ice Cream, Budge Studios

The top 10 movies on the iTunes Store for week ending Aug. 1, 2017:

ITUNES MOVIES US CHARTS:

1. The Boss Baby
2. Ghost in the Shell
3. Gifted
4. Kong: Skull Island
5. King Arthur: Legend of the Sword
6. The Founder
7. Snatched
8. The Fate of the Furious
9. The Lost City of Z
10. Beauty and the Beast (2017)

ITUNES MOVIES US CHARTS - INDEPENDENT:

1. The Lost City of Z
2. Wakefield
3. Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificent
4. Killing Ground
5. The Captive
6. A Family Man
7. Colossal
8. Super Troopers
9. The Exception
10. Laggies

Producer: 'Star Trek: Discovery' delayed to maintain quality

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The premiere of "Star Trek: Discovery" on CBS All Access was postponed nine months to maintain the quality of the brand.

Executive Producer Alex Kurtzman told the Television Critics Association Tuesday that they "spent a lot of time" discussing how to create this new world for TV that felt authentic to the "Star Trek" universe.

He said "it became clearer and clearer" that the targeted January debut would "compromise the quality of the show," so it was pushed with the blessing of CBS Chairman and CEO Leslie Moonves.

"Star Trek: Discovery" stars Sonequa Martin-Green as the central character, First Officer Michael Burnham.

The series premiere will broadcast on CBS Sept. 24. Immediately following, the first and second episodes will stream on CBS All Access. New episodes will hit on Sundays.

AP

Executive producers Akiva Goldsman, from left, Heather Kadin, Gretchen Berg, Aaron Harberts and Alex Kurtzman and actors James Frain, Sonequa Martin-Green, Mary Chieffo and Jason Isaacs participate in the "Star: Trek Discovery" panel during the CBS Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour at CBS Studio Center on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Casey Affleck's wife files for divorce in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Casey Affleck's wife has filed for divorce more than a year after the couple announced their separation.

Summer Phoenix filed the petition in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday citing "irreconcilable differences."

The 41-year-old Oscar-winning actor and Phoenix were married in June 2006 and the filing states they separated in November 2015. They announced their breakup in March 2016.

The couple has two sons, ages 13 and 9. Phoenix has requested joint legal and physical custody of their two sons.

Affleck won best actor at February's Academy Awards. During the awards season, a 2010 civil sexual harassment lawsuit against Affleck resurfaced. He told The Associated Press in July the media scrutiny hurt his family.

Representatives for Affleck did not immediately return an email request for comment

Jim Parsons hails 'Young Sheldon' star as 'in control' kid

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Jim Parsons, who plays quirky genius Sheldon Cooper on the CBS comedy "The Big Bang Theory," can draw many distinctions between himself and young Iain Armitage, who plays his character as a child on CBS' new spin-off, "Young Sheldon."

Parsons finds Iain much more "in control as a human being" and more mature than he was at age 9.

Hearing Parsons during a TV critics conference on Tuesday, Iain thanked him but graciously replied, "I don't think so."

Laughing, Parsons noted that Iain hadn't known him back then. They have much more in common these days, insisted Parsons, than they ever would have had when he was a youngster.

Parsons as adult Sheldon narrates "Young Sheldon," which premieres Sept. 25. He continues on "The Big Bang Theory," beginning Season 11.

AP

Iain Armitage, left, a cast member in the CBS series "Young Sheldon," and executive producer/narrator Jim Parsons take part in a panel discussion during the 2017 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Cosby accuser won't face San Diego drug charges

SAN DIEGO (AP)—An ex-model who accused Bill Cosby of sexual assault won't face criminal charges from a drug arrest at a San Diego jail.

Chloe Goins was arrested after she was found inside a parked car at the George F. Bailey Detention Center in Otay Mesa on July 23.

The Sheriff's Department says a drug believed to be heroin was found in the car. Goins was booked and freed on bail.

On Tuesday, the district attorney's office said the 27-year-old won't be charged with a crime. Spokeswoman Tanya Sierra says the office only files charges when it believes they can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Goins is suing Cosby, alleging he drugged and assaulted her in 2008 at the Los Angeles Playboy Mansion.

Cosby's lawyer says Cosby wasn't even in California.

Man's silence about past therapy distances fiancee

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I have been together for four years. We live together. Recently, I was talking to him about mental health and the benefits of therapy, which I firmly support. He said he thinks it's a waste of time. When I asked why, he replied that it hadn't worked for him. I asked what he meant by that (I wasn't aware that he had ever even been in therapy), and he said he went when he was 12 or 13.

After that, he clammed up. He wouldn't discuss why he went or share any details at all. Normally, we can talk about anything. I feel like if it hadn't been important, he wouldn't have reacted that way.

Since then, I have been feeling distant from him because of this. I'm not angry, and I don't want to force him to tell me anything, but as his future wife, I'm concerned that he would keep his past from me.

I would like for him to at least open up about the basics. I want us to be close, but I don't want to invade his privacy or make him feel disrespected. Should I try and forget that he said anything at all?

TORN IN GEORGIA

DEAR TORN: No, just wait a few weeks before you ask him why he reacted the way he did. By then he may be better able to articulate it. You should be aware before you marry him of what the issue was, particularly if it involved depression or molestation.

DEAR ABBY: Earlier this year, my stepmother made it a goal to lose weight. So far she has made no changes in her diet to help her accomplish that goal. She eats lots of fatty foods, uses lots of salt and eats almost no fruits or vegetables.

I feel Dad enables her because he does nothing to encourage her to eat healthier. He, on the other hand, eats very healthy—almost the opposite of what she does. He rarely eats anything fatty and uses salt sparingly. He also eats fruits and vegetables every day.

My stepmother's weight is an issue. She has several health problems that would improve greatly if she lost weight. I would like to say something to her about her diet, but don't know how without offending her. I know she would take it personally, and it would make our relationship difficult. What should I do in this situation?

IT'S A WEIGHTY ISSUE

DEAR WEIGHTY ISSUE: I think the best approach would be to talk about this with your father. Tell your dad you are concerned because your stepmother's weight problem is affecting her health and suggest they consult a licensed nutritionist (RDN) about "tweaking" her diet to help her to reach her goal. Because the topic is sensitive, it would be better if he broached the subject with his wife rather than you. While he's at it, he could also suggest some light exercise activity to start her moving.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: How do you tell a well-dressed, sophisticated woman that she has a booger or a hair hanging out of her nose? I have encountered this problem more than once, and I am embarrassed for them.

BARB IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BARB: If you are in a group, take the woman aside and give her the news privately. While she may be embarrassed, I'm sure she would also be grateful that you cared enough to clue her in. (The same goes for someone trailing toilet paper on her shoe, or worse, down the back of her pants.)

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

IF YOU COULD HAVE THREE WISHES GRANTED, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?
JUST THREE WISHES, HUH? HMM... THAT WOULD BE A TOUGH DECISION.
I GUESS I'D HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT A WHILE.
OOPS! HANG ON.
OK, I KNOW WHAT MY FIRST WISH WOULD BE.
8-3

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM'S COFFEE FANATIC INTERVIEW CONTINUES
MM-HM. HOW LONG COULD I GO WITHOUT COFFEE? LET ME THINK...
COULD I CHEW SOME COFFEE BEANS? OR USE A COFFEE PATCH? NO?? GEEZ...I...
HEAR ME OUT. COFFEE ICE CREAM? OR COULD I SMELL A COFFEE SCRATCH 'N' SNIFF TO GET BY?
8-3

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I CAN'T DECIDE WHAT TO DO FOR VACATION.
HOW ABOUT ONE OF THOSE ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS?
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! A PLACE THAT WILL ACCEPT ME EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T PAY!
THEY DON'T ALLOW PEOPLE WHO DON'T PAY!
WELL THEN, IT'S NOT REALLY INCLUSIVE, IS IT?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Artist Chagall
5 Flow out
8 Theater-goer's souvenir
12 Sheltered
13 Miss Piggy's pronoun
14 "Yes —?"
15 Go yachting
16 Group of seals
17 Primary
18 Movie theater
20 Meager
22 Scooted
23 Golfer Ernie
24 Like venison
27 "18 or older" provision
32 Yale grad
33 Press for payment
34 "Rocks"
35 Ease
38 Dazzle
39 Weep
40 Slugger's stat
42 "You Can't — Again"
45 Soft fabric
49 Paradise
50 By way of
52 Narc's measure
53 Anger
54 Dig in
55 Coup d' —
56 Blend
57 SSW opposite
58 Zilch

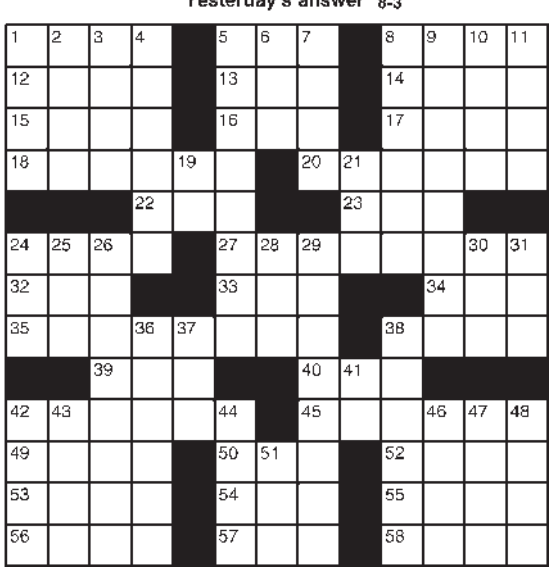
DOWN

1 Fem. counterpart
2 Jai —
3 Check
4 Bloody Mary garnish
5 Mexican entree
6 Scary cry
7 Auction actions
8 Mogadishu resident
9 Send
10 One
11 Skeletal
19 Bell or Barker
21 Cartoon frame
24 Jewel
25 "The Greatest"
26 "Gone With the Wind" author
28 Belly
29 Weaken
30 Hosp. area
31 Sawbuck
36 Pressed
37 Workout venue
38 Soft and lustrous
41 Exist
42 Bacterium
43 Garfield's pal
44 Divisible by two
46 Corleone patriarch
47 Flair
48 Carry
51 Author Fleming

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	A	G	■	■	R	O	B	■	S	P	U	R
I	S	A	M	■	E	V	A	■	H	I	R	E
C	A	R	E	S	F	O	R	■	I	N	G	A
O	P	R	A	H	■	■	I	S	R	A	E	L
■	■	■	S	E	R	B	■	A	R	F	■	■
O	I	M	Y	■	O	R	A	I	■	O	C	T
P	O	E	■	A	M	O	R	E	■	R	O	O
T	O	T	■	S	P	O	T	■	S	E	X	Y
■	■	A	C	■	■	M	E	E	I	■	■	■
S	O	P	H	■	A	■	■	L	E	T	G	O
E	C	H	O	■	B	A	L	L	F	O	U	R
T	H	O	P	■	J	N	O	■	F	I	N	C
S	O	R	E	■	T	N	T	■	I	L	K	S

Yesterday's answer 8-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Lochte, 33; Tom Brady, 40; Martha Stewart, 76; Tony Bennett, 91.

Happy Birthday: Keep your emotions under wraps and your mind focused on what you want to accomplish. You can bring about positive changes if you are dedicated to achieving the end results. Don't become confused or misled by what others do or say. Look at what you want and forge ahead with a positive attitude and a skip in your step. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 27, 33, 42, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep a challenging situation under control. If you let your emotions get involved, you will make an error. Focus on how you can make positive changes that will attract new opportunities to bring about promising changes. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Home improvements can be made if you are willing to do the work yourself. Map out a plan that requires your skills and insight, and follow it through to completion. Work toward building your assets, not whittling them away. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Emotional limitations will set in if you aren't honest about the way you feel or where you see yourself heading in the future. Change can be good, but it has to come about the right way and through proper channels. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Time spent on personal growth, physical improvements and honing your skills will be worth your while. Being ill-prepared will lead to disappointment. Do whatever it takes to keep up-to-date with new techniques and technology. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Pump up your energy level and go after your dreams. Engage in activities that are conducive to connecting with like-minded people. A change in the way you deal with others will allow you to demonstrate your leadership ability. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Speak the truth and ask for honesty in return. Put your emotions aside and get to the bottom of a situation that is bothering you. Be open and honest and you will find a solution that allows you to move forward. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't procrastinate. Move forward with the changes that will make your life better. Make your position clear and your terms nonnegotiable. Be willing to walk away from a bad situation in order to maintain your peace of mind and integrity. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't make a change just because someone upsets you. Remain calm and consider your best plan of attack. Intelligence will win out in the end. Outsmart any opponent you face and positive changes will unfold. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Initiate the changes you want to see happen. Dealing with issues concerning friends, children or seniors will bring you great satisfaction and popularity. Negotiate honestly and fairly on your own behalf as well as that of others. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be careful not to make an impulsive move based on what someone else does or says. Avoid excessive situations and indulgence of any kind. It's best to proceed with caution when faced with monetary decisions. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Change is inevitable and making the most of it is encouraged. Being able to take advantage of whatever comes your way will lead to better days ahead. Don't let anger waste your time when being productive is essential. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Personal and professional goals should be your priority. Discuss your plans with the people who will be influenced by your decisions. Love and romance are encouraged. The kindness and consideration you offer others will be reciprocated. Physical improvements can be made. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are open-minded, positive and detailed. You are articulate and progressive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5					
	9				6		2	
		8	3			9		
	7		1	4	3	5		2
1		5	8	6	9		7	
		9			5	4		
	8		2				1	
					7			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	5	7	3	9	4	2	8
4	2	9	1	6	8	5	3	7
7	3	8	5	4	2	1	6	9
2	8	7	3	1	6	9	5	4
3	9	1	4	2	5	7	8	6
5	4	6	8	9	7	2	1	3
8	5	2	6	7	4	3	9	1
1	6	4	9	5	3	8	7	2
9	7	3	2	8	1	6	4	5

Difficulty level ★★★ 8/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CARING FOR THE ELDERLY Solution: 6 letters

T	Y	P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E	G	R	O	O	M
A	R	R	R	O	I	N	E	S	K	L	A	T	O	R
C	D	A	T	H	E	R	A	P	Y	V	D	N	E	E
T	N	C	N	T	I	S	I	V	O	I	I	R	C	T
I	U	T	S	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	E	N	G
V	A	I	S	E	P	O	C	N	O	A	O	S	A	N
E	L	C	U	S	T	O	I	R	R	M	S	P	L	O
C	I	A	P	D	C	S	R	O	S	I	P	E	A	L
N	V	L	P	E	S	H	U	T	C	N	I	C	B	M
A	E	O	O	E	E	Ⓣ	O	R	A	S	C	T	E	E
R	I	L	R	N	I	R	Ⓔ	O	T	T	E	E	M	D
U	N	D	T	N	I	T	A	Ⓟ	L	R	I	V	O	I
S	O	E	E	E	K	O	O	C	S	E	R	O	H	C
N	U	R	S	E	R	T	N	E	R	A	P	L	N	A
I	F	A	M	I	L	Y	L	I	A	D	E	E	F	L

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Active, Balance, Care, Chores, Cook, Cope, Daily, Dressing, Family, Feed, Groom, Home, Hospice, Insurance, Laundry, Listen, Live-in, Long Term, Love, Medical, Monitor, Needs, Nurse, Older, Parent, Patience, Pet, Practical, Read, Respect, Routine, School, Senior, Stories, Strengthen, Support, Talks, Therapy, Transportation, Trust, Visit, Vitamins

Yesterday's Answer: Architectural

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Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Frances A. Castro
Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing on the proposed Saipan Globe Hotel project in San Roque, Saipan. The Saipan Globe International Group, Ltd., (SGIG) is proposing to construct and operate a resort complex to include a hotel tower with 438 rooms, 98 villas, 60 employee dorms, 2 restaurants, 3,800 square feet of retail space, 14,500 square feet of event space, swimming pool, parking and support services. The proposed resort complex is located on the west side of Route 30 in San Roque, specifically on Lot Numbers 001 B 42, 008 B 16, 22, 23, 24, 48, and 50, between Aqua Resort Club and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. Total area for all seven Lots is approximately 40,987 m² or 10.128 acres.

The public hearing is scheduled for **Thursday, August 17, 2017, at 5:00 PM at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria in San Roque, Saipan.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Saipan Globe Hotel project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Acting Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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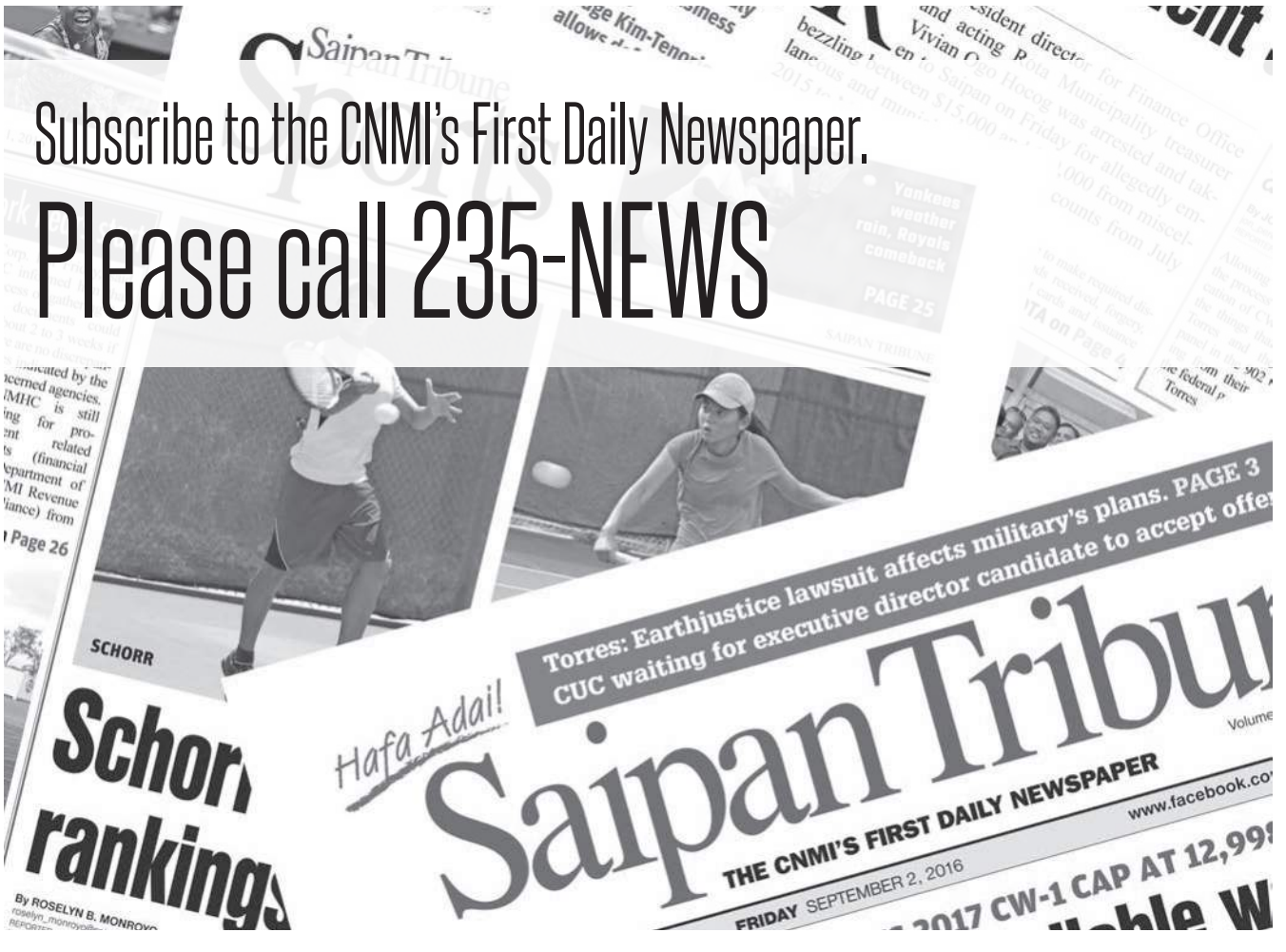
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.



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Los Angeles gets Olympics with an 11-year wait—and risks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—By 2028, a new stadium being built for the Rams and the Chargers will have been beaten up by nearly a decade of NFL games. The seemingly intractable problems of Southern California—traffic and homelessness—might get better or grow worse.

So much can change in 11 years.

Los Angeles' decision to lock in an Olympic Games to far-off 2028 was praised by city leaders Monday as a deal that offers hundreds of millions of dollars in future benefits. But the longest wait time for any Olympics in the U.S. also comes with the risks of the unknown.

"It's a big chunk of time," noted Jules Boykoff, a Pacific University professor who has written widely on the Olympics. "You just don't know what's going to come. The world presents surprises."

History teaches that the economy swings up and down, sometimes with disastrous results. Political scientists foresee an era of continuing upheaval and unrest. Geologists say an inevitable big earthquake in quake-prone Southern California could damage venues envisioned as part of the Games.

Mayor Eric Garcetti shrugged off a question about the uncertainty.

"Los Angeles is resilient," said the youthful-looking mayor, who will be granddad age, chasing 60, by the time of the Games.

AP

New York Jets' Jamal Adams takes questions from fans as part a of fan forum during an NFL football training camp in Florham Park, N.J., Monday, July 31, 2017.

"If the entire earth falls apart, probably the Olympics aren't happening in Los Angeles. But short of that, we are going to have a great Games here in LA," the mayor told reporters.

In embracing the 2028 date that is expected to be finalized later this year, city Olympic organizers ceded the 2024 Games to Paris, which both cities had craved.

But Garcetti and other supporters argued that the four-year delay was advantageous, giving the car-choked city more time to build rail lines. Additionally, the delay comes with financial sweeteners that, among other things, will pump millions of dollars into youth sports.

But time rushes on, and major changes are bound to happen.

Los Angeles County is home to 10 million people, and that population could increase by more than 500,000 by 2028, state demographers project. The cutting-edge technology in the new NFL stadium, now scheduled to open in 2020, will probably look like the forgotten Blackberry by 2028.

Many athletes in their prime today will be in the bleachers in a decade. And how can officials accurately estimate ticket prices and the revenue they will generate?

Events that happened 11 years ago can seem part of a faded, distant past. Facebook was a mere two years old. Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was executed. Taylor Swift released her first album, and "Game of Thrones" was years into the future.

Consider the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The nearly century-old iconic structure— which would be used in an Olympics for a third time after the 1932 and 1984 Games—was constructed long before modern building codes. It was also severely damaged in a 1994 earthquake. The coliseum is currently undergoing an extensive makeover, but experts have warned it could still be vulnerable to shaking.

Estimates vary widely on what the federal government would need to spend on security for the two-week event, by some accounts $1 billion or more. It's only a guess what the price tag will be in 2028, or the level of threat at that time.

Higher construction costs are likely, too. One example of the work that needs to be done: the Coliseum, a football stadium, would need to be converted into a venue for Olympic track events, then back again.

Over the years Olympics have been notorious for cost overruns, and studies have questioned if host cities benefit economically. Russia has struggled with costs from the 2014 Sochi Olympics, which have been called the most expensive Olympics of all time.

But Andrew Zimbalist, an economist at Smith College in Massachusetts, said LA was better positioned for a longer wait than other recent Olympic cities because its plan calls for no new major construction

"They will be able to run an operating surplus," he predicted.

In the shorter term, the private committee behind the LA bid must retool its initial 2024 plans for four years in the future, including renegotiating contracts for housing athletes and temporary venues, which were all hooked to 2024.

Another hurdle: With the change in date, LA apparently needs to renegotiate and extend financial guarantees approved by the city and state to cover potential shortfalls connected with the 2024 bid. Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation in September that puts California taxpayers on the hook for up to $250 million if Los Angeles were awarded the 2024 Games and they ran over budget, and the city has promised the same.

Chicago-based sports-finance consultant Marc Ganis said the overall outcome was favorable for LA, given that Paris was in line for the 2024 Games. Additionally, financial sweeteners will help cover costs over the longer wait time.

Still, facilities age, technology advances and costs rise.

"There is always going to be financial risk," Ganis said, "when you are targeting 11 years into the future."

Jets' Adams: 'die on field' comments simply about passion

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Jamal Adams meant no disrespect to players and families dealing with the effects of concussions. He simply loves football.

The New York Jets rookie safety drew sharp criticism from some fans, media and former and current players when he said Monday that if he had the choice, the field would be the "perfect place to die." In light of the backlash, Adams tried to clarify his comments Tuesday after practice.

"Honestly, I really didn't see it getting that far," Adams said. "I was speaking about being passionate about the game that I love. I understand that some families were affected by this disease and I definitely didn't mean it in any type of way."

During a question-and-answer session that included NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell at the team's facility, one of the approximately 150 Jets season-ticket holders asked the panel, which also included running back Matt Forte, about player health and safety. Adams, who never mentioned concussions or chronic traumatic encephalopathy, spoke about how much he and others enjoy the game.

AP

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, right, and L.A. Olympic Committee leader Casey Wasserman arrive at a press conference to make an announcement for the city to host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games 2028, at Stubhub Center in Carson, outside of Los Angeles, Calif., Monday, July 31, 2017.

"Literally, if I had a perfect place to die," Adams said, "I would die on the field . I would be at peace. Literally. That's not a lie."

The comment drew applause from many in the crowd, a curious response considering the strong focus in recent years by the NFL on concussions and injuries.

"I can't control what other people, how they viewed it," Adams said of the cheers he received. "All I can do is give my point."

Adams, a first-round draft pick from LSU, said during the forum that he wasn't so fond of the NFL rules that often protect offensive players. But he added that he understands why they're in place, and then talked about his passion for the sport before then making his critical comments.

Some former and current players took to social media to question Adams' choice of words.

"I hope all these young cats that are willing to die for the game of football find a higher purpose in life," Green Bay tight end Martellus Bennett wrote on Twitter .

"Here's an idea. Instead of "DYING" valiantly for football" take some of the earnings, create your own business (and) "LIVE" comfortably," former NFL running back Thomas Jones tweeted .

Adams' comments came with the news relatively fresh that Boston University and VA researchers reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association last week that they found signs of the disease in nearly 90 percent of 200 brains examined, including 110 of 111 from NFL players .

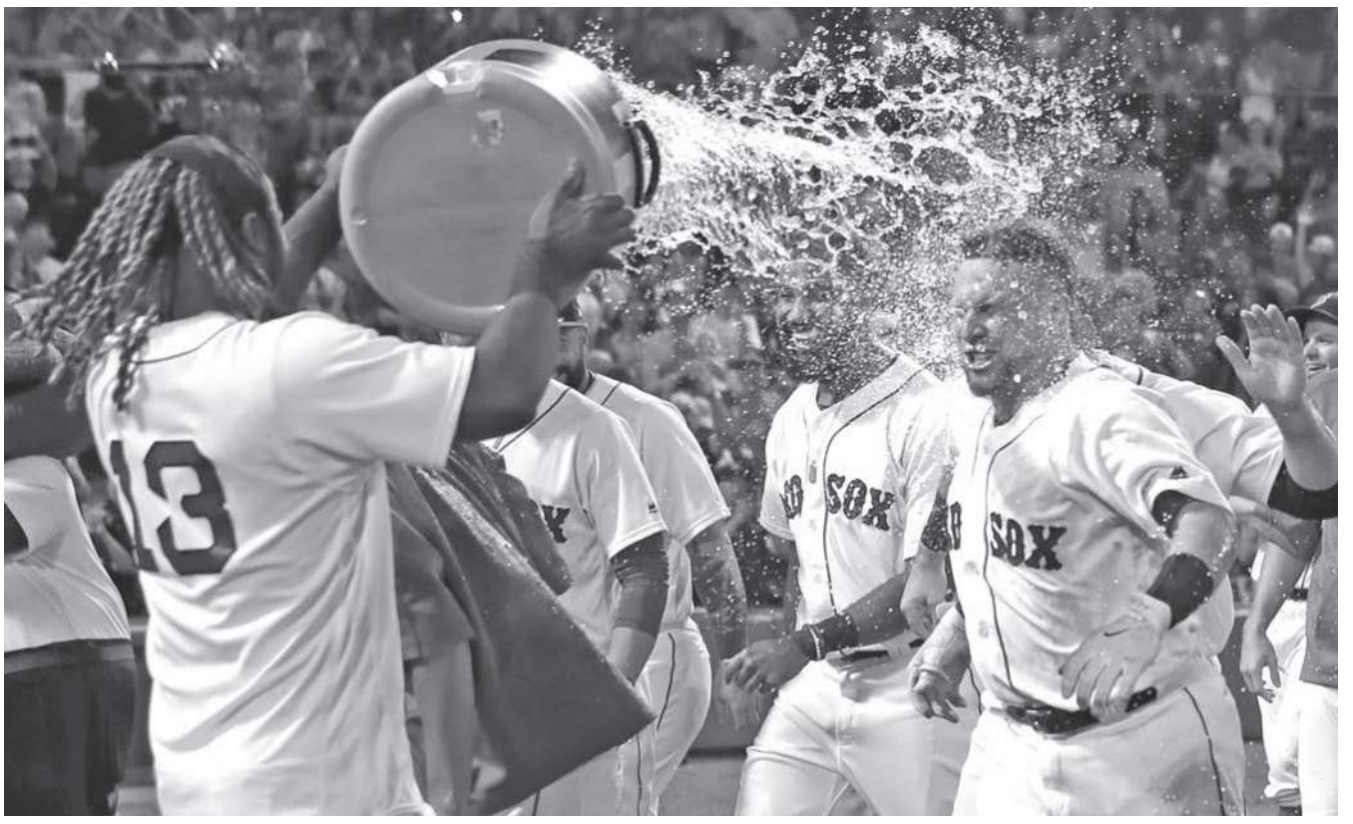
"My comments were simply for passion, nothing else," Adams reiterated Tuesday. "Not one time did I say anything about CTE or say anything negative. I respect it. I understand what the outcome of it is and I know there's families that are affected, but at the same time, everything's about passion, what I said."

Adams spoke to his father, former running back George Adams, and Jets coach Todd Bowles about his comments. The 21-year-old safety preferred to leave his conversation with his father private, but said Bowles told him that "you've got to clear it up."

"He understood what I said and it's all about passion, but I could see where it affected some families and some people," Adams said. "But again, it's all about passion and love of the game."

When asked to measure his feelings for football, Adams said: "Indescribable."

Vazquez's 3-run HR in 9th lifts Red Sox over Indian, 12-10



AP

Boston Red Sox's Christian Vazquez, right, is doused with water by Hanley Ramirez after his walk-off, three-run home run in the bottom of ninth inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indian at Fenway Park, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017, in Boston.

BOSTON (AP)—Christian Vazquez hit a three-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning and the Boston Red Sox pulled off the final rally of a wild game Tuesday night, beating the Cleveland Indians 12-10 despite an astonishing catch by center fielder Austin Jackson.

In the fifth inning, Jackson robbed Hanley Ramirez of a leadoff homer with a leaping grab in the right-center triangle at Fenway Park. Jackson reached way above the wall and tumbled head over heels into the Red Sox bullpen, steadying himself by holding onto the fence with his right arm. Following a soft landing, Jackson stood up and showed umpires he indeed had the ball, to the amazement of players on both sides.

A replay review confirmed Jackson held on for the catch.

Cleveland, which tied it on Fancisco Lindor's leadoff homer in the top of the ninth and added a run on a wild pitch, blew the lead for the third and last time in the bottom of the ninth in a game the Indians led 5-0 after two innings.

Dodgers 3, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Kenta Maeda allowed only two hits in seven scoreless innings, Cody Bellinger homered and Los Angeles won its ninth straight.

The slumping Braves were shut down by Maeda (10-4) but cut their deficit to one with Johan Camargo's two-run homer off Josh Ravin in the eighth. Atlanta ended the inning with Brandon Phillips, who had a pinch-hit single, on third base.

Bellinger led off the fourth with his 29th homer into the Braves' bullpen in right-center off Lucas Sims (0-1).

Sims and second baseman Ozzie Albies made their major league debuts for Atlanta, which has lost six in a row.

Kenley Jansen struck out the side in the ninth for his 28th save in 29 chances.

Rays 6, Astros 4

In Houston, Evan Longoria became the second Tampa Bay player to hit for the cycle and drove in three runs to lead the Rays past Houston.

He was a double shy when he came to the plate with two outs in the ninth inning and laced a laser to left field. Longoria dashed to second base and slid in to avoid the tag of Jose Altuve.

He was initially ruled out, but the call was overturned after a crew chief review. Most of the Rays stood up behind the railing of the dugout and cheered as the call was reversed.

Logan Morrison hit a solo homer and finished with two RBIs.

Lucas Duda singled with one out in the first before Longoria launched his towering homer, which banged on train tracks atop left field, off Mike Fiers (7-6) to make it 2-0. Morrison's 27th homer came next to make it 3-0.

Rays starter Chris Archer (8-6) allowed six hits, four runs and struck out five in 6-plus innings to get his first win since July 4.

Tigers 4, Yankees 3

In New York, John Hicks hit a three-run homer in his first big league game in more than a month, Justin Upton added a solo drive off CC Sabathia, and Detroit held on to beat the New York Yankees.

A 27-year-old rookie recalled Monday for his fifth major league stint this season, Hicks drove a slider over the right-center field wall in the second inning, capping a 10-pitch at-bat.

Upton made it 4-0 in the third when he hit a full-count slider to left-center for his 18th homer.

Shane Greene walked pinch-hitter Jacoby Ellsbury with two outs in the ninth, and bounced a pickoff throw for an error that allowed Ellsbury to reach third. Brett Gardner was intentionally walked and stole second, and rookie Clint Frazier popped out.

Anibal Sanchez (3-1) allowed six hits in 6 2/3 innings and improved to 3-0 at Yankee Stadium.

Sabathia (9-4) gave up six hits in six innings.

Brewers 3, Cardinals 2

In Milwaukee, Jimmy Nelson finally beat St. Louis with six strong innings, helping the Milwaukee Brewers hold on for a 3-2 victory over the Cardinals.

Nelson (9-5) entered 0-8 with a 7.01 ERA in 11 appearances (10 starts) against the Cardinals. This time, the right-hander overcame his division rival by allowing just two runs on six hits with seven strikeouts.

The Brewers' bullpen kept the Cardinals off the scoreboard for three innings, including Anthony Swarzak striking out the side in the eighth after Josh Hader issued a leadoff walk. Corey Knebel then earned his 19th save.

The Brewers scored their three runs in the first inning off Cardinals starter Carlos Martinez (7-9) and had just two infield singles the rest of the game.

Marlins 7, Nationals 6

In Miami, Max Scherzer hit his first career homer to help build a six-run lead, but he pitched only one inning before departing with a neck spasm, and Miami rallied to beat Washington.

Scherzer slept funny and left the game as a precaution, the Nationals said.

The Marlins took the lead with a four-run fifth inning. Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer off Matt Albers (5-2), and Derek Dietrich's RBI triple put Miami ahead 7-6.

Six pitchers combined to blank Washington over the final 7 2/3 innings. Dustin McGowan (7-1) pitched two scoreless innings during Miami's comeback.

Rockies 5, Mets 4

In Denver, Nolan Arenado hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and a game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth that lifted Colorado past the New York Mets.

Charlie Blackmon crashed into the center-field fence for an outstanding catch that ended the top of the ninth. In the bottom half, the Rockies took advantage of a misplay by new Mets shortstop Amed Rosario, a touted prospect making his major league debut.

Blackmon drew a leadoff walk from Hansel Robles (6-2) and DJ LeMahieu followed with an infield single off the glove of Rosario, unable to make the backhand play after initially breaking toward second base with Blackmon running on the pitch.

Padres 3, Twins 0

In San Diego, Austin Hedges hit a two-run home run in the eighth inning and Jhoulys Chacin combined with two relievers on a three-hitter for San Diego.

The Padres had only two hits and led 1-0 going into the eighth before Hunter Renfroe singled off Alan Busenitz with one out and Hedges homered to right-center, his 14th.

Jose Berrios (9-5) held the Padres hitless until Renfroe opened the sixth by beating out an infield single to third base. Hedges followed with a double to right and Manuel Margot hit a sacrifice fly with one out. Hedges was thrown out trying to take third.

Orioles 7, Royals 2

In Baltimore, Dylan Bundy allowed three hits over a career-high eight innings, newcomer Tim Beckham had two hits and scored twice and resurgent Baltimore won its fourth straight.

Seth Smith drove in three runs to help the Orioles move within two games of .500 (52-54) for the first time since July 3.

Kansas City will seek to avoid a three-game sweep on Wednesday. The Royals came to town having won 10 of 11, but they've only scored three runs in these two games at Camden Yards.

Reds 9, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Billy Hamilton hit a three-run homer and tripled, Eugenio Suarez and rookie Jesse Winker also went deep, and Cincinnati overwhelmed Pittsburgh.

Hamilton tripled and scored in the first inning. Then he sent a pitch from Jameson Taillon (6-5) into the right-field seats in the second for his third home run of the season as the last-place Reds beat Pittsburgh again.

Cincinnati is 7-1 against the Pirates this season and 36-62 versus everyone else. Homer Bailey (3-5) allowed one run in six innings, striking out three and walking two to snap a three-start losing streak.

Taillon gave up eight runs on 11 hits in 3 2/3 innings and is 1-3 with a 12.18 ERA since the All-Star break.

Blue Jays 8, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Justin Smoak hit his 31st homer, Josh Donaldson homered and drove in three runs, and Toronto beat Chicago.

Smoak and Donaldson each connected for the second straight night and third time in five games. Donaldson also had a sacrifice fly and RBI double.

Marcus Stroman (10-5) went seven innings, allowing four runs and seven hits. He was winless in his previous three starts despite a 1.89 ERA in that stretch.

Toronto came out on top after dropping three of four and snapped a four-game road losing streak.

Cubs 16, Diamondbacks 4

In Chicago, Jon Lester hit his first major league homer and struck out nine to reach 2,000 for his career, helping the Cubs cruise past Arizona.

Anthony Rizzo went deep twice and Ian Happ and Javier Baez also connected as Chicago kicked off a six-game homestand with its 14th win in 17 games since the All-Star break. Rizzo, Baez and Albert Almora Jr. each drove in three runs, and Kris Bryant and Willson Contreras had two RBIs apiece.

The NL Central leaders rapped out 17 hits in their highest-scoring game of the season and stayed 2 1/2 games ahead of second-place Milwaukee.

Mariners 8, Rangers 7

In Arlington, Texas, Robinson Cano doubled twice and drove in three runs as Seattle beat Texas.

Cano's two-run double in the sixth was the 499th of his career, moving him into a time with Rusty Staub for 63rd in MLB history.

Jarrod Dyson had his 200th career steal in the win and threw out a runner from centerfield at third to end the eighth inning in a one-run game. Nelson Cruz homered and Leonys Martin had two hits and two RBIs for Seattle.

Joey Gallo had two homers and four RBIs, and Rougned Odor also went deep for the Rangers, who lost their fourth straight.

Giants 10, Athletics 4

In Oakland, California, Hunter Pence hit a three-run homer and Nick Hundley added a two-run shot to back a stellar start by Jeff Samardzija and lead San Francisco past Oakland.

Brandon Belt homered leading off the fourth inning to help the Giants snap a four-game losing streak. San Francisco's five runs in the first matched its most in any inning this year, and the three homers also equaled a season high.

Samardzija (6-11) struck out five over eight innings to win consecutive outings for the second time this year.

Angels 7, Phillies 1

In Anaheim, California, Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer and a two-run double, and Los Angeles snapped Philadelphia's five-game winning streak.

Pujols followed up his go-ahead double off Aaron Nola (8-7) in the fifth inning with his 608th career homer in the seventh off reliever Mark Leiter. The slugger's third homer in two games left him one behind Sammy Sosa for eighth place in major league history.

Pujols went 3 for 4 in his 23rd career game with at least five RBIs. That's the 11th-most in history, tied with Barry Bonds and Cecil Fielder.

Veterans rule Unity Lions cycling race

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Familiar names lorded it over in the 2nd Annual Saipan Unity Lions Club bike race held last Sunday from Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

A total of 42 cyclists braved the early morning race and the partially wet conditions of the 60-kilometer course that had participants taking three loops from Banzai Cliff to Mobil Tanapag.

Nap Dizon remained Saipan's King of the Road after successfully defending his men's road bike title with J.C. Libut and Ariel Garcia placing second and third, respectively. Emily Northrop duplicated Dizon's feat in the women's division followed by Vernice Ronda.

Ernie Henzon, Jerome Diyco, and Renren Gaviola were the Top 3 in the U40 men's.

Bob Oropesa bested Dencio Bautista in the men's 41 to 45, while Avel Villafuerte outraced Jojo Valencia in men's 46 to 50 division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Multisport veteran Manny Sitchon, second left, leads the winners in the men's road bike over-56 division of last Sunday's 2nd Annual Saipan Unity Lions Club bike race.

Cesar Fortaleza ruled the men's 51 to 55 age group followed by Ronnie Santos and Bobby Vargas. Manny Sitchon topped the men's over-56, relegating Daniel Calvo and Conrad Libut to second and third places, respectively.

Mark Isip won the men's mountain bike category, while Noe Valdisimo came in second and Ding Ramos at third. Ricky Suba was the lone competitor in the men's 41 to 45, while Andrew Estepa, Jay Diyco, and Nestor Abing were the Top 3 in the 46 to 50 division.

Floro Derexes beat Florence Antonio for the men's 56 above title with Ponce Corotan coming in at third. Times were not recorded for the fundraising tournament.

SULC official Joe Digno said they decided to hold an annual race to give the island's cycling community another event. "Saipan has a vibrant cycling community. They have a lot of activities, so we decided to have another race so they remain active."

He added that they also plan to organize other sports fundraising events like a bowling tournament sometime this year. "But we will still have to meet and discuss our plans and where would the proceeds go."

Dignos said SULC would give the proceeds of Sunday's race to Karidat Social Services for their charity projects. "We're going to turn over canned goods, rice, and other food items to Karidat. From there, they would be the ones who would distribute it to our needy brothers and sisters."

3 submit bid to save 2019 Pacific Games

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

French Polynesia, Guam, and Samoa are hoping to bring the 2019 Pacific Games to their shores, informing the Pacific Games Council of their interest to host the 16th edition of the quadrennial sporting event.

The council set a July 31 deadline with the three island nations stepping up after original host Tonga's withdrawal last May citing finances and the concern of the cost in maintaining the sports facilities after the Games.

PGC chief executive officer Andrew Minogue said the council was pleased with the immediate response of other member nations.

Fiji, a week after Tonga's withdrawal, also expressed interest while the council offered the hosting to Papua New Guinea, but they turned it down since they just hosted the Games in 2015 and turned the baton over to Tonga in the closing ceremonies.

However, it was only the three island nations that expressed their readiness to take over the hosting rights.

"The PGC is delighted with this response and thank the three [Pacific Games associations] for stepping forward with their intention to host the 2019 Pacific Games," said Minogue in a statement.

"Delivering a strong vote of confidence in the importance of the Games and the benefits of hosting them. The three expressions of interest contain varying levels of detail as well as varying levels of financial commitments from their respective governments."

He added the PGC executive board would review the documents each submitted by the three nations and would also conduct site visits if needed before choosing the alternative host either by the end of the month or early September.

French Polynesia and Guam had already hosted the Games twice with the former holding it in Papeete in 1971 and 1995. Samoa was the Pacific Games hosts in 2007.

It would be favorable for the CNMI if ever Guam earns the right of hosting the Pacific Games. The Games were held in Tumon in 1975 and in Santa Rita in 1999.

NMA releases sked for last quarter

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics released its final schedule of events for the last quarter of 2017 with the 36th edition of the Christmas Island Relay wrapping its races for the year. The opening of the All Schools Cross Country Series will be in September at Airport Road followed by the succeeding legs in October to be held separately at the Civic Center Beach and at the American Memorial Park.

The last leg of the Cross Country race is in November also at the American Memorial Park. The final dates are yet to be determined, but it will be held on a Saturday.

NMA will also send representatives to the 11th Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championships on Oct. 20 and 21 organized by Guam Athletics in Guam.

The 30th Annual Mt. Tapochau Turkey Trot is set on Nov. 24 where the fastest age group racers that would make the uphill climb from Lower Base to Saipan's highest point would bring home turkeys as prizes.

Athletics competitions in the Pacific Mini Games are also on the NMA's calendar from Dec. 10 to 14 at Port Villa in Vanuatu.

The Christmas Island Relay will be held in the early morning of Dec. 23 where each member of a five-man team will complete the 13.7-mile (22 kilometers) race from the south parking lot of the Pacific Islands Club to the Last Command Post.

Individuals in the open division can run the entire race or be part of a five-person squad where each team member will alternately run one mile (1.6K) from PIC to Marpi.

NMA secretary general Robin Sapong and daughter Zarinae are currently in London for the 16th International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships from Aug. 4 to 13.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

tive clubs so their strong offensive showing in the tournament is no longer surprising. At least four players from Saipan Elite hit the board in each of the team's six games in the double-round robin preliminaries.

4Gives, Saipan Elite's fiercest rival for the division championship, was ranked second in the most goals scored with 55 and allowed 24. 4Gives added 12 to its total after shutting down HK SSS in their final preliminary game last Tuesday. After failing to score in its last match, HK SSS was left with 15 goals and yielded 63. NMI U16 gained 23 goals and gave up 61.

In the co-ed U12 division, SSS topped the list with its 43 goals, getting seven more after beating Kanoa Football Club 1 yesterday. Sean Gil and Richard Castro delivered two goals apiece for SSS, while Garrett Weaver, Cody Shimizu, and Audrey Castro contributed one.

Joemil Antonio had a hat trick for Kanoa FC 1, while Jim Maniago and Daniel Mar Pablo added one each. Kanoa 1 is out of contention for the division title as it lost five games and drew one, leaving SSS and Kanoa FC 2 to fight for the championship tomorrow. Kanoa FC 1 finished the elimination with a 3-1-2 record and logged 32 goals while giving up 29.

In the girls U17 division, Hakone FC scored the most goals with 37 and was followed by F. Marinos (25), Isamu United (13), and Marianas Health Armada (11). F. Marinos was the only team in the entire tournament to limit its opponents to single digits in goals scored with eight, thanks to the steady defense of goalie Carla Ballesteros.

RUGBY

From Page 28

and see how the team fares with other squads and then work on improvements or correct our mistakes," he added.

The Mini Games will be held from Dec. 4 to 15 in Vanuatu with the CNMI allowed to field a 12-man rugby team plus coaches and officials. The Commonwealth is one of the 13 countries that committed to play in rugby sevens and it will be the first time in nearly two decades that the CNMI is fielding a squad in the competition.

"Hopefully, our participation in the Mini Games will spark interest in the sport in the CNMI. I believe our athletes are capable of competing against other countries in rugby sevens and we just have to start somewhere to revive the sport here," Northern Marianas Rugy Union president Stanley Iakopo said.

ARMADA

From Page 28

ing plays in the 20-minute second half. Mia Carreon made a couple of attempts, but failed to cash in, while Paulyn Joyce had a sorry miss in the last three minutes and change of the intense semis match.

Joyce unloaded a right cross off a pass from Krizel Tuazon, who opted to swing the ball to the former instead of attempting a free kick after getting fouled by Britany Wally. It was a good choice since Armada defenders were obviously bundled up on the left part of the pitch, forming a wall to prevent Tuazon from having a clear look at her target. However, Joyce failed to convert her attempt, as the ball first bounced off the lower left post and then hit the lower right before rolling down to the corner with Armada goalie Chevy Kate Alipio finally picking it up and ending a scary moment for her team.

Armada then melted the clock to complete the upset and take the first finals seat in the division. Though Falalimpa scored the game-winner for Armada, Alipio also played a key role in their semis win over Hakone FC, as the goalie registered 17 saves in only her second game in the tournament.

Armada will play in the winner-take-all finals tomorrow against the victor of the F. Marinos-Isamu United tiff today.

Meanwhile, Saipan Elite eased its way to the title match in the boys U16 division after downing HK SSS, 8-2.

Merrick Toves, Kohtaro Goto, and Rintaro Miyawaki teamed up in bringing Saipan Elite to the finals after posting two goals apiece. Oliver Lee added one and Saipan Elite got one more goal off HK SSS' miscue. Joshua Daniel Moilig and Dylan Kim tallied the two goals for HK SSS.

Saipan Elite's finals foe will be the winner in the other semis game between 4Gives and NMI U16. The second and last Final Four pairing in the division will take place today at 4pm.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	59	49	.546	—
New York	57	48	.543	½
Tampa Bay	55	53	.509	4
Baltimore	52	54	.491	6
Toronto	50	57	.467	8½

Central Division

Cleveland	57	48	.543	—
Kansas City	55	50	.524	2
Minnesota	50	54	.481	6½
Detroit	48	57	.457	9
Chicago	41	63	.394	15½

West Division

Houston	69	37	.651	—
Seattle	55	53	.509	15
Los Angeles	52	55	.486	17½
Texas	50	56	.472	19
Oakland	47	60	.439	22½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	63	42	.600	—
Miami	50	55	.476	13
New York	48	56	.462	14½
Atlanta	48	57	.457	15
Philadelphia	39	65	.375	23½

Central Division

Chicago	57	48	.543	—
Milwaukee	56	52	.519	2½
St. Louis	52	54	.491	5½
Pittsburgh	51	55	.481	6½
Cincinnati	43	63	.406	14½

West Division

Los Angeles	75	31	.708	—
Colorado	61	46	.570	14½
Arizona	60	46	.566	15
San Diego	48	58	.453	27
San Francisco	41	67	.380	35

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI Players at Summer Soccer Camp in Hong Kong

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Youth female players from the CNMI do stretching drills under the instruction of Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong's Jimmy Tang during a training session at the futsal facility of Chelsea FC. The visiting players had a two-weeklong summer camp in Hong Kong last month.

CNMI players pose with Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong before starting their training session at the Kwun Tong Recreational Ground.

CNMI players listen to instructions from a Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong coach during a training session at the Morse Park.

Two CNMI players battle for the ball during a training session at the Morse Park.

CNMI players are at the Hongkong Stadium to watch the Leicester City vs West Bromwich Albion and Liverpool FC vs Crystal Palace matches.

CNMI players join a group of Chelsea FC masters players for a group photo at the Kwun Tong Recreational Ground.

Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong talk to CNMI players before starting their training session at the Kwun Tong Recreational Ground.

CNMI players have their morning training at Kowloon Bay Park.

Los Angeles gets Olympics with an 11-year wait—and risks

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Vazquez's 3-run HR in 9th lifts Red Sox over Indian, 12-10

PAGE 25

Rugby coach focuses on fitness, positioning

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With less than five months before the 2017 Pacific Mini Games kickoff, CNMI Rugby Team coach Viliame Kaitabu is working on the squad's fitness and the players' positioning.

"We will be playing for only seven minutes in each half, but it will be a fast game so fitness is very crucial. Speed and strength are very important," said Kaitabu, who is from Fiji where the sport thrives.

To get the 20-man pool trying out to gain slots on the CNMI Rugby Team in top shape, players are doing weight training at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and also run along the Beach Road Pathway twice a week. The pool also holds practices every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the CPA Airport Field with Kaitabu facilitating defensive and offensive plays to give the players a better understanding of their positions at the field.

Rugby sevens is played with three forwards (two props and one hooker) and four backs (scrum half, fly half, center, and wing) per each team.

"Every player has a different role on the field, but their movements should work together to be able to make things happen for the team so it is very important for our players to be at the right position at the right time. They have to master their position so we can executive our plays well," Kaitabu explained.

The coach added that the tournament in Guam later this month will give the players the chance to play their roles and also allow him to evaluate each player's performance. The team will compete in the 2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens that will be held on Aug. 26 and 27 at the University of Guam.

"It will be a very good learning experience for us. We will be able to see what are we doing wrong or right and when we get back, we will be able to make the adjustments," Kaitabu said.

"I know we have only a few months left before the competition in the Mini Games, but we can't rush things. We have to do to things step by step and one of the steps we have to take is to compete in Guam

See RUGBY on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Coach Viliame Kaitabu, standing left, joins CNMI rugby players and their supporters for a group photo before their training session at the CPA Airport Field last Tuesday.

Armada stuns Hakone, enters finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas Health Armada recorded an upset at the start of the playoff round of the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament after nosing out Hakone FC, 2-1, in their semis game in the girls U17 division yesterday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Marinel Falalimpa drilled the pair of goals for Armada, which finished last in the double-round robin preliminaries with only a win to show in six games and was obviously the underdog in their semis match against the top-ranked Hakone FC. Hakone FC entered the playoffs with a 5-0-1 win-draw-loss record, beating Armada in their first two meetings, 12-1 and 3-2, and winning the tiebreaker for first place against F. Marinos for its better goal difference, 24 to 17.

Hakone then drew first blood in the semis tiff, thanks to Katrina Costales goal midway in the opening half. However, Armada equalized in the closing minutes of the first half when Falalimpa hit a left cross.

The game remained tied early in the second half before Falalimpa made the go-ahead in the 28th minute. Falalimpa was at the right place at the right time to break the deadlock and the heart of the heavily favored Hakone FC. Falalimpa's dagger was a follow up as Jerlyn Castillo's attempt against two Hakone FC defenders came up short with goalie Theresa Toves partially blocking the ball when she moved in to provide help defense. The ball stopped rolling a few meters away from the goal line, but Falalimpa was there left open for short shot to give Armada the shaky lead.

Now down and with its finals bid in limbo, Hakone FC became more aggressive on offense, while Armada focused on defense in the ensu-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas Health Armada's Jerlyn Castillo, left, kicks the ball, while Hakone FC's Krizel Tuazon steps in for defense during the second half of their semis game in the girls U17 division of the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament yesterday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Saipan Elite scores most goals

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REPORTER

Saipan Elite's offensive firepower was in full display in Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament, as it registered the most goals in all three divisions of the competition.

Saipan Elite collected 60 goals in six games and also yielded the least (17) in the boys U16 division to finish on top of the team standings (5-1-0 win-draw-loss record) and get the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs. The squad went on to advance to the finals after dominating HK SSS in their semifinal match yesterday ***(see related story)***. Merrick Toves, Kohatro Goto, Oliver Fajardo, Rohan Basnet, Jaydee Jose, Jeremiah Diaz, Rintaro Miyawaki, Danny Matsunaga, and Oliver Lee are the members of the team and majority of them are known scorers in their respec-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Elite's Rohan Basnet, rights, battles a 4Gives player for possession during their preliminary round game in the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.